.46 Wildlife

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN – STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name *(MFP)*	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL-1

Objective: WL-1

Provide for the improvement or maintenance of 4.5 million acres of wildlife habitat in the planning area in order to assure that a sufficient quantity, quality, and diversity of habitat exists to accomodate the needs of all species of wildlife presently or potentially using the planning area, by 1991, and to enable the public lands to better fulfill public demand for consumptive and nonconsumptive wildlife uses.

Rationale:

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 states " . . . that it is the policy fo the United States that . . . the public lands be managed in a manner . . . that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife . . ." (Public Law 94-579, Sec. 102 [a][8]). Bureau of Land Management Manual 1603.12D states, in part, that it is Bureau policy that the wildlife program is primarily concerned with the protection and use of wildlife through enhancement and maintenance of its habitat components, that the welfare and habitat requirements of all wildlife will be considered in programs affecting the public lands, and that the essential requirements of wildlife--food, cover, and water--will be maintained so as to provide optimum "edge effect" and interspersion of habitat components in important wildlife areas.

As described in the Wildlife sections of the resource area's URAs, wildlife habitat conditions throughout the resource area are generally in less than good condition. Specific habitat types such as riparian zones and meadows are in especially bad condition, and forage production over the majority of the area is inadequate for current consumption rates. The combination of past general disregard for range suitability criteria, the lack of forage allocations for wild horses in the past and the present, and the general inadequacy of forage allocations for wildlife is largely responsible for these conditions.

Improvement and/or maintenance of wildlife habitat in the planning area will result in an increase in the numbers of big game animals (for which the demand currently exceeds supply), small game animals, and, as importantly, nongame animals. Better wildlife habitat conditions, with resultant increases in wildlife, will enhance the public's consumptive and nonconsumptive uses or wildlife on the public land in the planning unit.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.1
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.1 ✓

Reserve forage for full reasonable numbers of big game animals in the areas presently occupied by big game animals and in those areas potentially occupied by reintroduced species. Forage requirements by grazing allotment and species are as follows:

Allotment	Deer AUMs	Antelope AUMs	Bighorn Sheep AUMs
Rock Creek	134	0	43
Sonoma	141	0	29
Melody	0	0	0
Coal Canyon-Poker	97	1	31
Gold Banks	92	0	18
Rye Patch	66	0	24
Thomas Canyon	90	0	35
Clear Creek	176	0	20
Harmony	95	0	7
Humboldt House	67	0	23
Humboldt Sink	2	0	3
Pleasant Valley	354	0	97
Prince Royal	47	0	13
Pumpernickel	222	0	38
Rockester	45	0	15
Star Peak	434	0	82
Rawhide	84	0	46
Dolly Haden	68	0	18
Klondike	57	0	10
Dun Glen	0	0	0
Whitehorse	35	0	7
Diamond S	129	0	38
Calico	46	44	86
Pole Canyon	15	7	37
Buffalo Hills	6,294	1,016	1,142
Soldier Meadows	786	429	264
Rodeo Creek	177	137	150
Coyote	35	411	7
Leadville	179	67	176
Ragged Top	72	0	0

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Wl 1.1 (continued)

Seven Troughs	495	26	0
Blue Wing	701	49	106
Desert Queen	0	0	0
Majuba	57	92	0
Licking *	45	0	0
N. Buffalo *	15	0	0
S. Buffalo	381	0	135
Jersey Valley *	48	0	1
Cottonwood Canyon **	18	0	0

*Within the Winnemucca District but administered by Battle Mountain District.
**Within the Winnemucca District but administered by Carson City District.

By proposed interdistrict agreement, the Winnemucca District provides decisions on forage requirements for wildlife in Licking, N. Buffalo, S. Buffalo, and Jersey Valley allotments to the Battle Mountain District, and in Cottonwood Canyon to the Carson City District.

Rationale:

Forage can be allocated to wild ungulates in the same manner as to domestic ungulates. There are no technical difficulties which would prevent this from being accomplished. Federal regulations under which the BLM operates allow allocation of forage resources to wildlife (43CFR 4110.2-2[a]). The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) was consulted regarding numbers of wild ungulates and their forage requirements. NDOW and BLM cooperatively worked out procedures for establishing reasonable numbers and forage requirements for big game animals.

Reasonable numbers for mule deer consist of an average of actual deer numbers present over a long period of time. This time period encompasses both the high deer population years and the low population years, and is thus intermediate between them. In all cases, this number is higher than present deer numbers. Thus, the "reasonable number" concept will allow for growth of the deer population in the planning area.

WL 1.1 (continued)

Reasonable numbers for antelope are a 50% expansion of present numbers. This expansion was used, rather than a long term average, because antelope populations are generally higher now than in the past and it is expected that they will increase even more once grazing management is implemented.

Reasonable numbers for bighorn sheep represent estimates of numbers that the potential habitat in the use areas would support once reintroductions are made.

It is expected that big game popuations will expand under this allocation, which would result in increased numbers of harvestable animals. This would likely result in increased available tags and increased harvest. This can be interpreted as meaning increased recreation and increased income to area merchants through purchase of hunting supplies, lodging, fuel, etc.

This recommendation helps fulfill Objective WL-1 by reducing the demand on the forage resource of the planning area. The AUMs allocated to wildlife would be in place of an equivalent number of livestock AUMs, rather than in addition to the livestock AUMs, as is now the case.

Alternatives to this recommendation include the following.

With respect to deer and antelope:

(1) allocate no forage;
(2) allocate forage based on low populations;
(3) allocate forage based on peak populations
(4) allocate to present numbers.

With respect to bighorn sheep, the only alternative considered was to make no allocation of forage.

For deer and antelope, alternatives 1 and 2 were rejected because wildlife populations currently exceed these numbers, and acceptance of either of these alternatives would result in overobligation of the forage resource. Alternative 3 was rejected because it would result in reservation of unnecessarily high amounts of forage which would otherwise be available for other uses. Alternative 4 was rejected because

it would result in reservation of unnecessarily high amounts of forage which would otherwise be available for other uses. Alternative 4 was rejected because deer populations are constantly changing, with numbers increasing and decreasing during a given year, and from year to year. In addition, alternatives 1, 2, and 4 do not allow for any expansion of the deer population, which is desirable to help satisfy the demand for harvestable deer. The alternative of no allocation to bighorn sheep was rejected because acceptance would preclude making reintroductions of bighorn sheep in the planning area. This is a tentative allocation anyway: the actual allocation of forage for bighorn sheep would not be made until the sheep were released into the individual use areas. This may be years away in some areas.

The economic effects of acceptance and implementation of this recommendation will vary from allotment to allotment, since the number of AUMs to be reserved or allocated to wildlife varies by allotment. Some of the AUMs reserved for wildlife would otherwise be available for allocation to other uses, including livestock grazing. Economic effects of this recommendation will be considerable on grazing licensees in allotments that have large wildlife forage requirements. By the same token, however, improvements in wildlife habitat resulting from acceptance of this recommendation will result in increases of wildlife populations, which should also result in increased harvest.

Support:

None.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Manage range conditions to allow existing big game populations to reach reasonable numbers where possible. Monitor condition and trend of key wildlife areas to insure habitat is available.

Estimated forage uses by allotment which will be necessary to achieve this objective are listed below.

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III
Wildlife 1.1

As Currently Written:

Manage range conditions to allow existing big game populations to reach reasonable numbers where possible. Monitor condition and trend of key wildlife areas to insure habitat is available.

Estimated forage uses by allotment which will be necessary to achieve this objective are listed below.

Allotment	Deer AUMs	Antelope AUMs	Bighorn Sheep AUMs
Rock Creek	134	0	43
Sonoma	141	0	29
Melody	0	0	0
Coal Canyon-Poker	97	1	31
Gold Banks	92	0	18
Rye Patch	66	0	24
Thomas Canyon	90	0	35
Clear Creek	176	0	20
Harmony	95	0	7
Humboldt House	67	0	23
Humboldt Sink	2	0	3
Pleasant Valley	354	0	97
Prince Royal	47	0	13
Pumpernickel	222	0	38
Rochester	45	0	15
Star Peak	434	0	82
Rawhide	84	0	46
Dolly Hayden	68	0	18
Klondike	57	0	10
Dun Glen	0	0	0
Whitehorse	35	0	7
Diamond S	129	0	38
Calico	46	44	86
Pole Canyon	15	7	37
Buffalo Hills	6,294	1,016	1,142
Soldier Meadows	786	429	264
Rodeo Creek	177	137	150
Coyote	35	411	7
Leadville	179	67	176
Ragged Top	72	0	0
Seven Troughs	495	26	0
Blue Wing	701	49	106
Desert Queen	0	0	0
Majuba	57	92	0
Licking	45	0	0
N. Buffalo	15	0	0
S. Buffalo	381	0	135
Jersey Valley	48	0	1
Cottonwood Canyon	18	0	0

Change To:

Manage range conditions to allow existing big game populations to reach reasonable numbers where possible. Monitor condition and trend of key wildlife areas to insure habitat is available. Bighorn sheep will not be reintroduced on active preference sheep allotments unless all conflicts can be resolved. The domestic sheep permit will remain transferable as a sheep permit. Established, permitted sheep trailing routes will be considered in the same sense as active preference sheep allotments. Estimated forage uses by allotment which will be necessary to achieve this objective are listed below.

Allotment	Deer AUMs	Antelope AUMs	Bighorn Sheep AUMs
Rock Creek	134	0	43
Sonoma	141	0	29
Melody	0	0	0
* Coal Canyon-Poker	97	1	31
* Gold Banks	92	0	18
* Rye Patch	66	0	24
Thomas Canyon	90	0	35
* Clear Creek	176	0	20
Harmony	95	0	7
* Humboldt House	67	0	23
Humboldt Sink	2	0	3
Pleasant Valley	354	0	97
* Prince Royal	47	0	13
* Pumpernickel	222	0	38
* Rochester	45	0	15
* Star Peak	434	0	82
* Rawhide	84	0	46
Dolly Hayden	68	0	18
Klondike	57	0	10
Dun Glen	0	0	0
Whitehorse	35	0	7
Diamond S	129	0	38
** Calico	46	44	86
Pole Canyon	15	7	37
** Buffalo Hills	6,294	1,016	1,142
Soldier Meadows	786	429	264
Rodeo Creek	177	137	150
* Coyote	35	411	7
** Leadville	179	67	176
* Ragged Top	72	0	0
* Seven Troughs	495	26	0
* Blue Wing	701	49	106
Desert Queen	0	0	0
Majuba	57	92	0
Licking	45	0	0
* N. Buffalo	15	0	0
S. Buffalo	381	0	135
Jersey Valley	48	0	1
Cottonwood Canyon	18	0	0

* Active preference sheep allotments.
** Allotments containing established sheep trailing routes.

Rationale:

The decision as originally written caused much concern among the sheep permittees of the resource area. They felt that if bighorn sheep were reintroduced into the resource area that the domestic sheep operations would be eliminated. this was never the intention of the original decision. In order to clarify the decision the matter was made an agenda item for the CRMP Local Number 1 meeting in Winnemucca on October 22, 1982. As a result several members of the CRMP group met with Winnemucca District personnel and worked out the clarification.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Ken Earp by Larry Hill, Orovada, Nevada.
2. CRMP Local Number 1, Winnemucca, Nevada.
3. Buster Dufurrena, Denio, Nevada.
4. Larry Hill, Nevada First Corporation, Orovada, Nevada.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife 1.2
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Recommendation: WL 1.2

MFP 1 Following allocation of forage to full reasonable numbers of wildlife, adjust forage use by livestock and wild horses in the entire planning area to bring total forage use to that level estimated as proper by the recompilation of the range surveys for the planning area.

Rationale:

The Wildlife URAs for the planning area indicate the general deteriorated habitat conditions that presently exist. These conditions are a result of heavy livestock grazing over the entire planning area since the beginning of white settlement, compounded by tremendous increases in wild horse grazing since passage of the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Protection Act (16 USC 1331-1340). As the situation presently exists, many allotments are two or three times over allocated to livestock and wild horses, to say nothing of wildlife requirements. This is an intolerable situation which, if left uncorrected, could eventually result in the all but total destruction of wildlife habitat on the public land in the planning area.

It is technically feasible to carry out these recommendations, and the District Manager has the authority to reduce livestock grazing use because of a lack of forage (43 CFR 4110.3-2) and to close allotments for conservation reasons (43 CFR 4120.3). Authority to close the public land to livestock use because all available forage is required by horses is contained in 43 CFR 4730.4. Authority to remove wild horses from the public land is contained in 43 CFR 4740.3(a).

Licensing livestock use of the public land in excess of the grazing capacity is prohibited by 43 CFR 4120.2-1(a).

Implementation of this recommendation will lead to the eventual improvement of almost every acre of wildlife habitat in the planning area. If nothing else, the greatly reduced effects of trampling will increase water absorption and porosity of the soil. However, benefits will go far beyond this. Proper use of the vegetative resource will allow for recovery of vegetative diversity and plant vigor, which will greatly enhance wildlife habitat values.

The only alternative considered was one of no action. This was not given serious consideration because it would mean continuation of the present situation, which is not acceptable.

Economic and social impact of this recommendation may be considerable. There would be loss of income to livestock operators in all affected allotments. This could lead to loss of lifestyle and other social impacts. In addition, the wild horse has tremendous emotional appeal and a large following of admirers who will likely fight efforts to reduce horse numbers.

Support:

1. Range will be needed to draft and issue the necessary decisions reducing livestock numbers.

2. Wild Horse Specialist will be needed to prepare gathering plans and implement them.

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

This recommendation has been combined with Range Management 1.1 and Wild Horses and Burros 1.2. See the Multiple Use Recommendation for the above combined recommendations.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION WH|B 1.1

MFP III Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

The recommendation is in conflict with the Bureau's new Rangeland Management Policy.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.3

Reserve the forage in that part of the Granite Range which lies south of the Leadville Allotment for wildlife, and declare that area to be a Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Overlay No. WL-1 depicts the boundaries of the WMA. The reasonable numbers concept of big game numbers would not apply to the WMA, and big game populations would be permitted to expand beyond those levels. The WMA would be managed for the benefit of wildlife, and grazing use would be subservient to the needs of wildlife.

Under this recommendation, wild horses would be completely eliminated, since none were present in 1971, and all livestock grazing preference would be cancelled. Livestock grazing would be permitted in the WMA on a temporary nonrenewable (TNR) basis as needed to manipulate the vegetation for the benefit of wildlife. Period-of-use for this TNR grazing, number of AUMs allowed, and area of use within the WMA, would vary from year to year depending on habitat management objectives. The only class of livestock permitted would be cattle.

Rationale:

This recommendation is technically feasible. Livestock use in the Wildlife Management area could be effectively controlled by (1) fencing the entire area, using existing fences and approximately 40 miles of new fence, or (2) relying on existing fences, topography, and herding on the west side, and on new fence between the Leadville Allotment and Hualapai Valley (approximately 10 miles), and on terrain on the east.

The District Manager has the authority to cancel grazing leases, permits, and preferences when the available forage is needed for other objectives (43 CFR 4110.2-1[b]). He may allow temporary nonrenewable grazing use under 43 CFR 4130.2-1. He can set periods of use under 43 CFR 4120.2-1. This recommendation retains multiple use in consumptive forage use, but it places the greatest importance on wildlife values. Grazing preference would be cancelled, but grazing use would be allowed as required to manipulate the vegetation for wildlife needs, on a temporary nonrenewable basis.

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Properly designed and implemented grazing system in this area would allow the use of livestock "cattle" to achieve desired vegetation manipulations.

WL 1.3 (continued)

Vegetative habitat management objectives can be included into intensive grazing system objectives. Wildlife use of an area and proper livestock use of an area are not necessarily incompatible. Reasonable number forage allocations for wildlife have been recommended for this area, suitability criteria has been applied in the recommendation livestock allocations.

No wild horse forage allocations have been recommended in this area.

This area has been recommended as an ACEC in Multiple Use Recommendation 1.4 because of the important wildlife habitat.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.4
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-1 Step 3

MFP 1

Recomendation: WL 1.4

The portion of the Granite Range which lies south of the Leadville Allotment should be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Rationale:

This area is the most important wildlife habitat area in the resource area. It contains a diversity and interspersion of habitat that is unsurpassed in the planning area. It contains the largest mule deer population in the planning area, many of the antelope, the best bighorn sheep habitat, and the largest sage grouse population. Specific recommendations for management of this area have been made (Recommendation WL 1.3).

Part of this area has been identified as being suitable for reintroduction of the California bighorn sheep, a sensitive species for which habitat protection is a Bureau objective (BLM Inst. Memo NV 78-130). According to NDOW reports, California bighorn sheep were present in the Granites as recently as 1910. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) and regulatory proposals to implement it (Federal Register, Vol. 44 No. 110, pp. 32590-32602) allow for designation of ACECs. Designation as an ACEC does not in itself require changes in management of ACEC areas, but does afford them special consideration in management decisions.

Refer to page 123 of the Buffalo Hills Wildlife URA for information concerning relevance, importance, criticalness, and protectability of this area.

Designation as an ACEC will help assure that this important habitat area retains its value as wildlife habitat. No alternative was considered because of these high values.

Support:

None.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II The portion of the Granite Range which lies south of the Leadville Allotment should be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Rationale

This area is the most important wildlife habitat in the resource area. It is approximately 150,000 acres. It contains the largest mule deer population in the planning area, many of the antelope, the best bighorn sheep habitat, and the largest sage grouse population.

This area recently had a reintroduction of California bighorn sheep, a sensitive species for which habitat protection is a Bureau objective.

This area is responsible for the majority of the Washoe County portion of hunter days used in the planning area. Total hunter days used in the Washoe County portion of the planning area was 7,412 hunter days, 77% of which occur on public land (PAA page 104).

P III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

The Bureau has management authority to protect this area without it becoming an ACEC.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

The primary management objective for the following area is to provide crucial wildlife habitat for mule deer. Any domestic livestock use will be considered secondary and must be complimentary to this primary use.

T. 36 N., R. 22 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, and 16.
T. 34 N., R. 23 E., Sections 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, and 32.

7,680 acres

Rationale

ACEC designation is not necessary to protect these areas for wildlife. This can be accomplished under existing management guidelines and procedures.

These areas, however, have been identified as crucial habitat for mule deer by the Bureau and NDOW. These areas consistently support disproportionately high deer numbers when compared to the surrounding area and are crucial to maintaining a healthy deer population in the Granite Range.

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III
Wildlife 1.4b

As Currently Written:

The primary management objective for the following area is to provide crucial wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. Any domestic livestock use will be considered secondary and must be complimentary to this primary use. The bighorn crucial habitat contains all or portions of the sections listed below.

T. 34 N., R. 22 E., Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35, and 36.

T. 34 N., R. 23 E., Sections 19, 30, and 31.

T. 33 N., R. 22 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, and 24

T. 33 N., R. 23 E., Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, and 32

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

This area is the most important wildlife habitat area in the resource area. It contains a diversity and interspersion of habitat that is unsurpassed in the Winnemucca District. It contains the largest mule deer population in the district, many of the antelope, the best bighorn sheep habitat, and a large sage grouse population.

This recommendation retains multiple use in consumptive forage use, but it places the greatest importance on wildlife values. Grazing preference would not be cancelled, but grazing use would be allowed as required to manipulate the vegetation for wildlife needs, on a temporary nonrenewable basis.

This area recently had a reintroduction of California bighorn sheep, a sensitive species for which habitat protection is a Bureau objective.

Vegetative habitat management objectives can be included into intensive grazing system objectives. Wildlife use of an area and proper livestock use of an area are not necessarily incompatible. Reasonable number forage requirements for wildlife have been recommended for this area.

This area is responsible for the majority of the Washoe County portion of hunter days used in the planning area. Total hunter days used in the Washoe County portion of the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit was 7,412 hunter days, 77% of which occur on public land (PAA page 104).

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Brent Espil, Gerlach, Nevada.
2. W. R. Spoo, Gerlach, Nevada.

Mr. Espil stated, "Now in the M.F.P. III the Bureau has stated that bighorn sheep reintroduction holds priority over domestic livestock. In my opinion this is wrong. Sheep ranchers throughout the west are going out of business more and more each year. With the closed minds of the BLM I can see why.

The Bureau is designed to govern public lands for multiple use. With the attitude that the Winnemucca Office has had and that of the M.F.P. III presents, they are going to do nothing to help the sheep ranches of today."

Mr. Spoo stated, "The Coyote allotment, was originally two seperate permits, Iveson and Fisk. Before these two permits were joined to form Coyote, they were both part of the Buffalo Hills allotment. When these permits were part of the Buffalo Hills allotment, they were cut approximately 50%. The Coyote allotment now holds approximately 2400 suspended AUMs as a result of the previous cuts in the Buffalo Hills allotment. Through the years I have consistantly been told by BLM, personnel, that if additional forage became available in the Buffalo Hills allotment it would be used to restore some if not all of the suspended AUMs suffered by the permittees in this allotment in the past. I believe this to be the no. 1 priority regarding this additional forage, and trust that the BLM view remains the same. Any lost AUMs that become available again, whether or not they were originally for cattle or sheep, should be used for the purpose of restoring lost AUMs to the permittees that lost AUMs in the Buffalo Hills allotment in the past."

See complete letters enclosed.

Other Comments Were Received From:

1. A. F. Jackson, Gerlach, Nevada.
2. Nevada Division of State Lands, Carson City, Nevada.
3. Tina Nappe, Reno, Nevada.
4. Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.
5. Nevada Department of Wildlife, Reno, Nevada.
6. Sammye Ugalde, Kings River, Orovada, Nevada.
7. CRMP Local No. 1, Winnemucca, Nevada.
8. David A. Jessup, DVM, Staff Wildlife Pathologist, California Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova, California.

Copies of the comment letters are enclosed.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Brent Espil, Gerlach, Nevada.
2. W. R. Spoo, Gerlach, Nevada.

MFP III

WL 1.4b

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

The primary management objective for the following area is to provide crucial wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. Any domestic livestock use will be considered secondary and must be complimentary to this primary use. The bighorn crucial habitat contains all or portions of the sections listed below.

T. 34 N., R. 22 E., Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34 35 and 36.

T. 34 N., R. 23 E., Sections 19, 30, and 31.

T. 33 N., R. 22 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, and 24

T. 33 N., R. 23 E., Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, and 32

Rationale

ACEC designation is not necessary to protect these areas for wildlife. This can be accomplished under existing management guidelines and procedures.

These areas, however, have been identified as crucial habitat for bighorn sheep by the Bureau and NDOW. These areas consistently support bighorn sheep and are crucial to maintaining a healthy bighorn sheep population in the Granite Range.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.5
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-1 Step 3
-7, -11

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.5

The following areas should be designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Public land areas in:

1. Riparian areas along major streams (see overlay)
2. Wetlands associated with upper Rye Patch Reservoir, Humboldt Sink, and Carson Sink (see overlay).

The wetland areas described in number 2 are also being recommended for ACEC designation as endangered species habitat (Recommendation WL-1.6).

Rationale:

As the single most important habitat types in the planning area, and because of their extreme fragility, riparian and wetland areas qualify for designation as ACECs. A recommendation containing specific management goals and methods for riparian areas has been made (Recommendation WL 1.8).

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) and regulatory proposals to implement it (Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 110, pp. 32590-32602) allow for designation of ACECs. Designation as an ACEC does not in itself require changes in management of ACEC areas, but does afford them special consideration in management decisions.

Refer to page 125 of the Buffalo Hills Wildlife URA, page 102 in the Sonoma Wildlife URA, and page 93 in the Blue Wing Wildlife URA for information concerning relevance, importance, criticalness, and protectability of this area.

Designation as ACECs will help assure that these crucial habitat areas will remain as important wildlife habitat sites. No alternatives were considered because of the very high values of these areas.

Support:

None.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 19

FP II

Recommendation: WL 1.5

The following areas should be designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Public land areas in:

1. Riparian areas along major streams (see overlay)
2. Wetlands associated with upper Rye Patch Reservoir, Humboldt Sink, and Carson Sink (see overlay).

The wetland areas described in number 2 are also being recommended for ACEC designation as endangered species habitat (Recommendation WL-1.6).

Rationale:

As the single most important habitat types in the planning area, and because of their extreme fragility, riparian and wetland areas qualify for designation as ACECs. A recommendation containing specific management goals and methods for riparian areas has been made (Recommendation WL 1.8).

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) and regulatory proposals to implement it (Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 110, pp. 32590-32602) allow for designation of ACECs. Designation as an ACEC does not in itself require changes in management of ACEC areas, but does afford them special consideration in management decisions.

Refer to page 125 of the Buffalo Hills Wildlife URA, page ____ in the Sonoma Wildlife URA, and page ____ in the Blue Wing Wildlife URA for information concerning relevance, importance, criticalness, and protectability of this area.

Designation as ACECs will help assure that these crucial habitat areas will remain as important wildlife habitat sites. No alternatives were considered because of the very high values of these areas.

Support:

None.

FP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

The Bureau has the authority to protect this area under its existing management guidelines and procedures. ACEC designation is not necessary.

WL 1.5a

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

A. Designate the following areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

1. Mahogany Creek and its watershed which is enclosed in the Mahogany Creek Nature Area and Summer Camp Creek which is spawning habitat for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. Currently classified as threatened by the U.S.F.W.S.

2. The Soldier Meadows Warm Springs which are habitat for the Soldier Meadows Desert Dace. (Proposed for threatened or endangered status).

A. Rationale

These areas should be afforded the special management attention that ACEC classification/designation would require.

Multiple Use Recommendation

B. Management objectives of activity plans (AMPs, HMPs, etc.) will include specific objectives pertaining to improving and maintaining desired riparian habitats along major streams, and riparian habitat in significant wet meadow areas.

If these objectives cannot be met through intensive grazing systems (AMPs) then fence these areas to provide necessary habitat improvement.

B. Rationale

Through coordinated planning efforts, intensive grazing management systems will be designed and implemented to provide for broad resource benefits. Fencing or exclusion of livestock from riparian or stream bank situations should be considered as a last resort or when adverse impacts to riparian areas cannot be mitigated through intensive systems development and implementation.

Previous allotment management plans did not adequately consider the impacts of livestock upon riparian and stream bank situations. Future systems will be designed with specific riparian vegetation and stream bank objectives in mind.

WL 1.5a

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Designate a 307.22 acre parcel surrounding the hot springs located in T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 23,

Lot 2	44.38	acres
Lot 3	43.86	acres
Lot 5	43.61	acres
Lot 6	44.39	acres
Lot 8	43.37	acres
Lot 9	43.66	acres
Lot 12	43.95	acres
	307.22	acres

As an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The hot springs in this area contain habitat for the Soldier Meadows desert dace.

Rationale

The hot springs in the Soldier Meadows area are an extremely fragile habitat. This is the only area in the world where the Soldier Meadows desert dace exists. The area designated as an ACEC in this decision contain the only existing and potential dace habitat that is on public land. All the other habitat for the dace is on the Soldier Meadows Ranch private land and could very easily be destroyed by private development of the ranch property.

I. Name

Soldier Meadow Desert Dace Area of Critical Environmental Concern

II. Management Objectives

A. Protect the desert dace habitat from destruction, excessive trampling by livestock, alteration, pollution, and exotic species.

B. Maintain desert dace habitat in Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership.

III. Description

A. Overview

The Soldier Meadow desert dace habitat located on public land is the priority feature of this Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The desert dace (Eremichthys acros) belongs to a monotypic genus. It has been declared rare by the State of Nevada and sensitive cooperatively by the State of Nevada and the Bureau of Land Management. The desert dace has been classified threatened by the Endangered Species Committee of the American Fisheries Society. It was classified threatened by this committee because of the threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat and because of its restricted range (Deacon et al., 1979). The desert dace is also a federal candidate endangered species.

It is BLM policy to conserve state listed and sensitive species and their habitats. Bureau of Land Management Manual 6840.06 states:

> "It is Bureau policy to conserve federally and State listed endangered or threatened animals and to utilize its authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA and similar State laws. State laws protecting animals faced with local extirpation or premature extinction apply to BLM programs and actions to the extent that they are consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (P.L. 94-579) and other Federal law. It is also Bureau policy to ensure that the crucial habitats of sensitive animals will be managed and/or conserved to minimize the need for listing those animals by either Federal or State Government in the future."

The total desert dace habitat is restricted to Soldier Meadow in northwestern Humboldt County (see Map 1). Most of the dace

habitat occurs on private land. Spring 4 (T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 23, SW1/4NE1/4) is the only spring located on public land that contains a population of dace (see Map 2). This small population was established in 1975 by a transplant.

Most of the springs in Soldier Meadow are found between elevations of 4,320 feet and 4,580 feet.

The area proposed for designation as the Soldier Meadow Desert Dace Area is as follows (see Map 3):

T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 23
Lot 2 - 44.38 acres
Lot 3 - 43.86 acres
Lot 5 - 43.61 acres
Lot 6 - 44.39 acres
Lot 8 - 43.37 acres
Lot 9 - 43.66 acres
Lot 12 - 43.95 acres
307.22 acres total

This parcel is the minimum area required to protect desert dace habitat on public land.

Three springs that may be potential desert dace habitat are located within the proposed ACEC (see B. Relevance and Importance).

A population of dace occurs in a channel that crosses the southeast corner of the ACEC (see map 4). BLM's management options for this population are limited since the source of water originates on private land.

Nyquist (1963) noted the plant species in the Soldier Meadow area indicated that the area was in the Sonoran Life Zone. He also stated Soldier Meadow seemed to be a transitional zone between the shadscale and sagebrush subzones of the Upper Sonoran Zone.

General terrestrial plant species observed by Nyquist in the Soldier Meadow basin were:

Bud sagebrush - Artemesia spinescens;
Bailey greasewood - Sarcobatus baileyi;
Littleleaf horsebrush - Tetradymia glabrata;
Rabbitbrush - Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus;
Saltgrass - Distichlis spicata;
Shadscale - Atriplex confertifolia.

Aquatic vegetation in Soldier Meadow consisted of the following plants:

Bulrush - Scirpus olneyi;
Common monkeyflower - Mimulus guttatus;
Common poolmat - Zannichellia palustris;

Duckweed - Lemna perpusilla;
Evening primrose - Oenothera heterantha;
Spike-rush - Eleocharis sp.

Various species of algae were also observed in the springs of Soldier Meadow.

Terrestrial fauna observed by Nyquist in the Soldier Meadow Basin consisted of the following species:

Mammals

Blacktailed jackrabbit	- Lepus californicus;
Bobcat	- Lynx rufus;
Deer mouse	- Peromyscus maniculatus;
Desert woodrat	- Neotoma lepida;
Great Basin pocketmouse	- Perognathus parvus;
Least chipmunk	- Eutamias minimus;
Merriam's kangaroo rat	- Dipodomys merriami;
Mule deer	- Odocoileus hemionus;
Pronghorn antelope	- Antilocapra americana;

Birds

California quail	- Lophortyx californica;
Canada goose	- Branta canadensis;
Mallard	- Anas platyrhynchos;
Mountain bluebird	- Sialia currucoides;
Mountain quail	- Oreortyx picta;
Red-winged blackbird	- Agelaius phoeniceus;
Sage grouse	- Centrocercus urophasianus;

Reptiles

Leopard lizard	- Crotaphytus wislizeni;
Sagebrush lizard	- Sceloporus graciosus;
Western garter snake	- Thamnophis elegans.

Nyquist (1963) also discussed the invertebrate aquatic fauna of the warm springs in Soldier Meadow. Insecta was the most common order represented in the springs, but Annelida, Crustacea, and Gastropoda were also represented in the springs.

Speckled dace (Rhinichthys osculus) and Tahoe suckers (Catostomus tahoensis) are sometimes associated with the desert dace in the cooler temperatures of the spring outlet streams (La Rivers, 1962).

Jerry Landye a private consultant sampled five springs for endemic snails in Soldier Meadow (personal communication, March

29, 1982). He found an endemic undescribed genus, new species snail. The exact taxonomic position of this hydrobioid snail is uncertain at this time. One of the five springs is located within the same section as the proposed ACEC, but is not included in the ACEC.

Domestic livestock grazing occurs on the parcel proposed for designation. The proposed area exists within a Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). Currently, no other uses or activities of significance are known to be occurring on the parcel.

B. Relevance and Importance

The parcel proposed for ACEC designation occurs within the area being considered for critical habitat if the species is federally listed as endangered.

This designation also has special significance, because the desert dace occurs no where else in the world, and this is the only place where this fish can be managed on public land.

Five other springs on public land have relevance to the proposed ACEC in that they may be potential desert dace habitat. Map 2 shows the locations of the following springs which may be potential habitat:

Spring 1 - T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 13, NW1/4NE1/4;
Spring 2 - T. 40 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 18, NW1/4NW1/4;
Spring 3 - T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 23, NE1/4NW1/4;
Spring 5 - T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 23, SW1/4NE1/4;
Spring 6 - T. 40 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 23, SE1/4SE1/4.

Springs 3, 5, and 6 occur within the proposed ACEC. All five springs occur within the area being considered for critical habitat if the desert dace is federally listed as endangered.

IV. Special Management Requirements

A. Description of Special Management and Future Uses

Five BLM authorized activities could have negative impacts on the proposed ACEC. Each activity and the management practices that should be considered for each activity are described below.

Livestock Management

No practices should be allowed that would concentrate livestock use within the ACEC. Practices that would concentrate livestock use in the ACEC are salting and constructing corrals or holding pens. The source of spring 4 and its outlet stream should not be diverted from its natural watercourse for livestock watering purposes.

The desert dace has co-existed with domestic livestock for over 100 years. Since the springs on public land are of low flow it is desirable to keep vegetation around them from becoming excessive, causing large losses of water through transpiration. Moderate livestock grazing can keep the vegetation from becoming excessive.

Realty

The proposed parcel should not be disposed of through agricultural entry or other means. Applications for road or utility rights-of-way must be analyzed for possible impacts to the ACEC.

Minerals

Rock or gravel pits should not be permitted within the ACEC. The small total size of the dace habitat makes it susceptible to destruction even under provisions of the 3809 regulations. The ACEC is proposed for oil-gas and geothermal leasing with no surface occupancy. Drilling for tests or production on adjacent areas or slant drilling could impact the surface flow of spring 4 which is dace habitat.

A stipulation will be placed on the drilling permit of the ACEC lessee when an application for permit to drill is submitted to the Bureau. The stipulation will direct the lessee to take all necessary measures to avoid disrupting the surface flow of spring 4 during the extraction of energy minerals leased within the ACEC.

A mineral withdrawal of the ACEC should be pursued if the dace is federally listed as threatened or endangered.

Recreation

Recreational activities that concentrate people in an area such as a competitive ORV event should not be allowed within the ACEC. Observation and interpretation of the ACEC should be encouraged and opportunities could be identified in a recreation management plan.

Fire Management

Fire management in the ACEC will consists of fire suppression in the shortest possible time. The use of heavy equipment (bulldozers, Unimogs) will not be permitted within fifty feet of the warm springs or their outlet streams in the ACEC. Fire retardant will not be used in the ACEC.

B. Other Management and Future Uses

No alteration of spring 4 or its outlet stream should be allowed except for benefit of the dace. Water should not be diverted from the spring source or outlet stream via pipeline or ditch.

At least four springs within the ACEC qualify as public water reserves. These include springs 3, 4, and 5. Two sources are located at spring 5 (see district water rights file, Soldier Meadow, T. 40 N., R. 24 E.,--Hotsprings A, B, C, D, E, F). Other springs within the ACEC may qualify as public water reserves, however, their rate of flow is not known at this time. The Bureau will not file with the state for water rights to springs that qualify as public water reserves. The Bureau will protest all filings made on public water reserves.

Executive Order 107 of April 17, 1926 states public water reserves are withdrawn from settlement, location, sale, or entry and reserved for public use. The Act of June 25, 1910 as amended, cited in the Executive Order provides that the land withdrawn" shall at all times be open to exploration, discovery, occupation, and purchase under the mining laws of the United States, so far as the same apply to metalliferous minerals."

The ACEC should be inspected at least semi-annually to insure management objectives are being met. Installation of a Stevens-A-71 recorder is recommended for spring 4 to establish baseline flow data.

An inventory of the existing and potential dace habitat was conducted by district personnel. Water quality data also has been collected for these springs. The inventory and water quality data can be found in the Soldier Meadow aquatic inventory located with the Desert Dace Habitat Management Plan in the district files.

Meetings were held by BLM to present the proposed Sonoma-Gerlach MFP II to the general public, interest groups, and government entities. During those meetings, the proposed ACEC was presented to the various groups. The following list shows the dates of the meetings and the groups represented at them.

Group	Date
Nevada State Clearinghouse	July 15, 1980
Washoe County Commissioners	July 15, 1980
Congressional Delegation	July 16, 1980
Humboldt County Commissioners	July 17, 1980
Pershing County Commissioners	July 21, 1980
General Public - Gerlach, Nevada	July 23, 1980
General Public - Lovelock, Nevada	July 24, 1980
General Public - Winnemucca, Nevada	July 25, 1980
Humboldt County Regional Planning Commission	September 11, 1980

Information concerning the subject meetings can be found in the Winnemucca District central files under Public Participation in Sonoma-Gerlach EIS-1792.

VI. Literature Cited

Deacon, J.E., G. Kobetich, J.D. Williams and S. Contreras. 1979. Fishes of North America Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern: 1979. Fisheries. 4(2):29-44.

Landye, Jerry. Bio-Geo Southwest, Inc. Flagstaff, Arizona. Personal Communication. March 29, 1982.

La Rivers, Ira. 1962. Fishes and Fisheries of Nevada. State Printing Office. Carson City, Nevada.

Nyquist, D. 1963. The Ecology of Eremichthys acros, an Endemic Thermal Species of Cyprinid Fish from Northwestern Nevada. M.S. Thesis, Univ. Nevada, Reno. 247 pp.

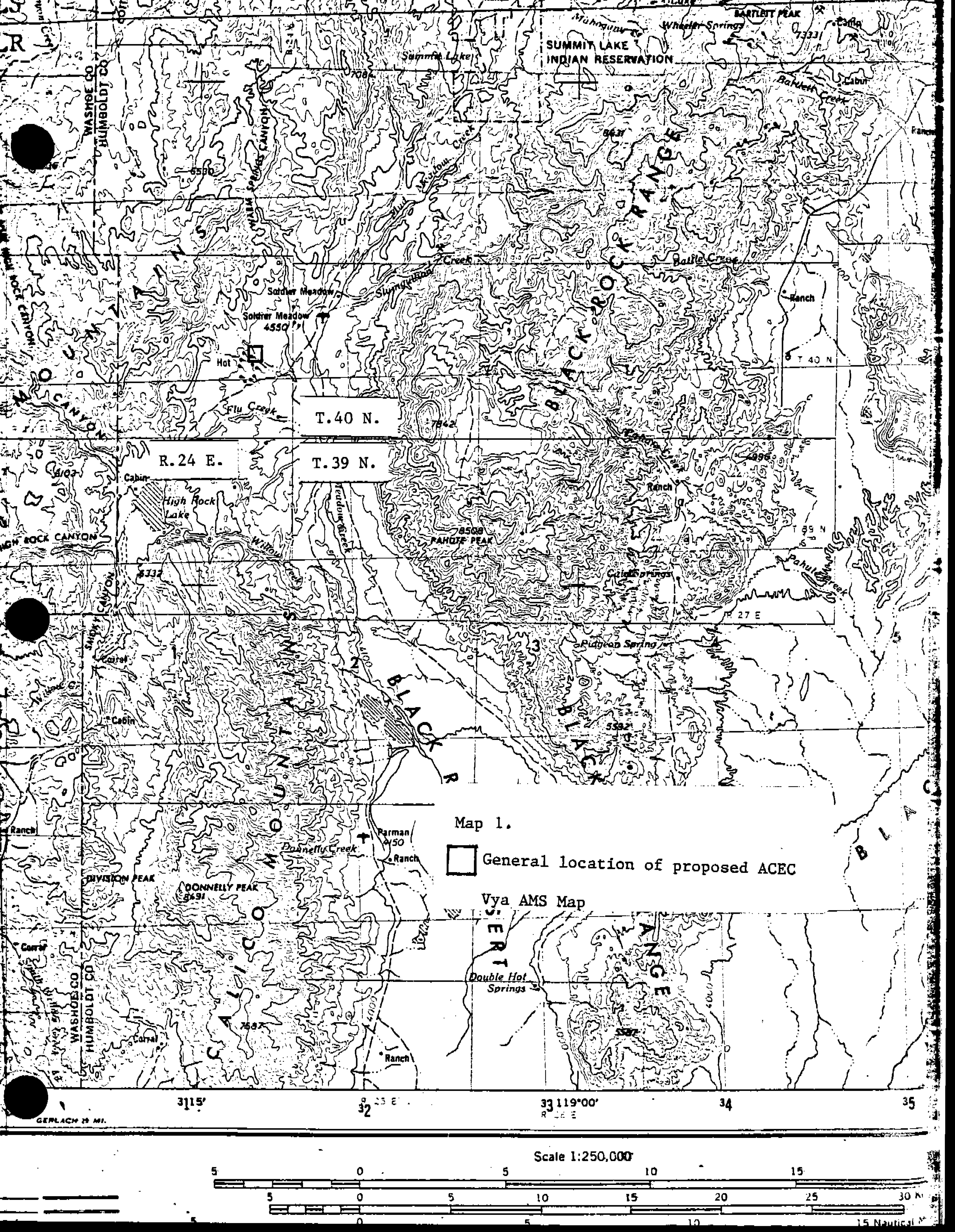
VII. Maps

Map 1 - General location of proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern - Vya AMS Map.

Map 2 - Locations of warm springs on public land in Soldier Meadow - Soldier Meadow and Mud Meadow 7.5' Quadrangles.

Map 3 - Master title plat of T. 40 N., R. 24 E., showing proposed ACEC.

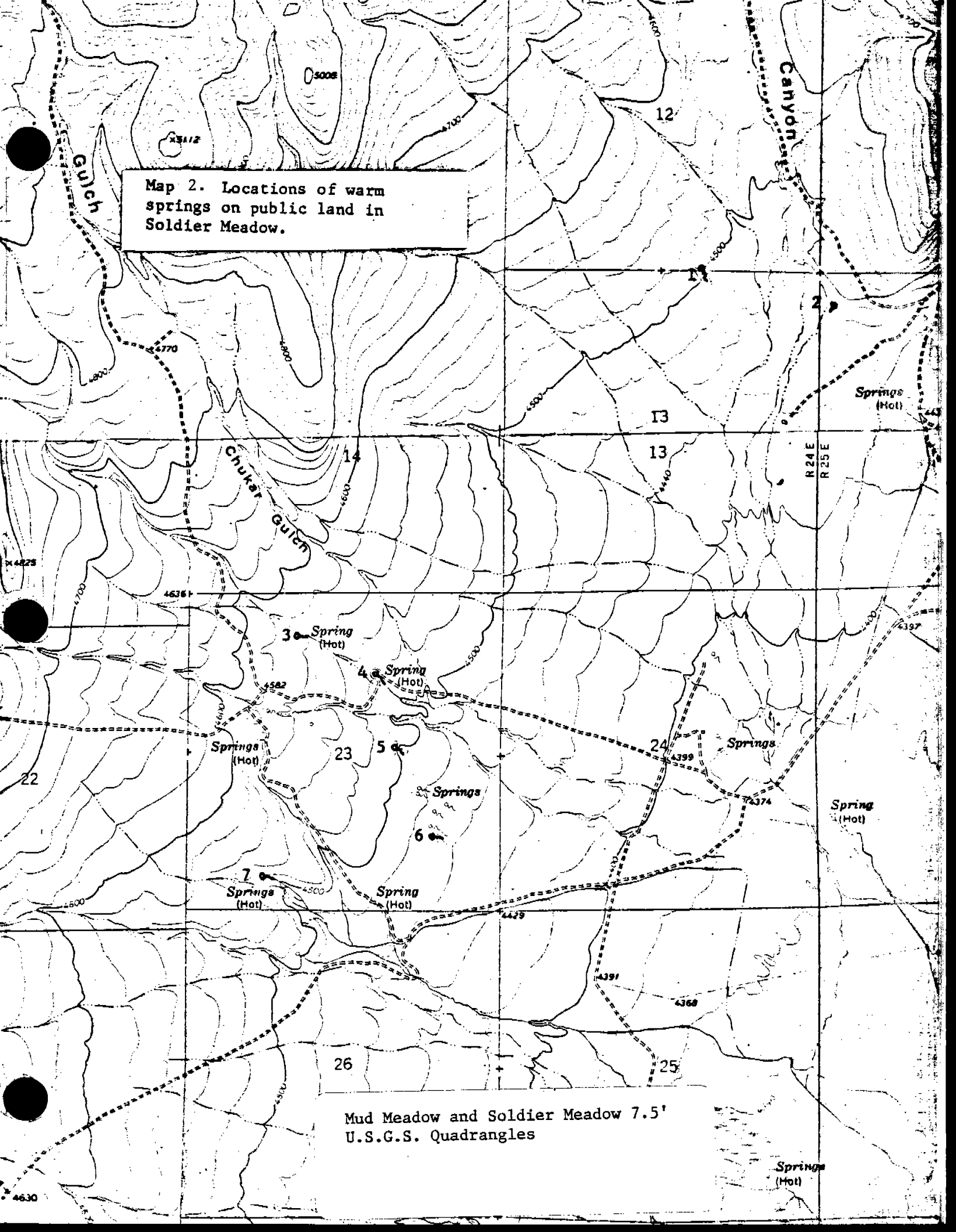
Map 4 - Channel on public land with a population of desert dace - Mud Meadow 7.5' Quadrangle.



Map 1.

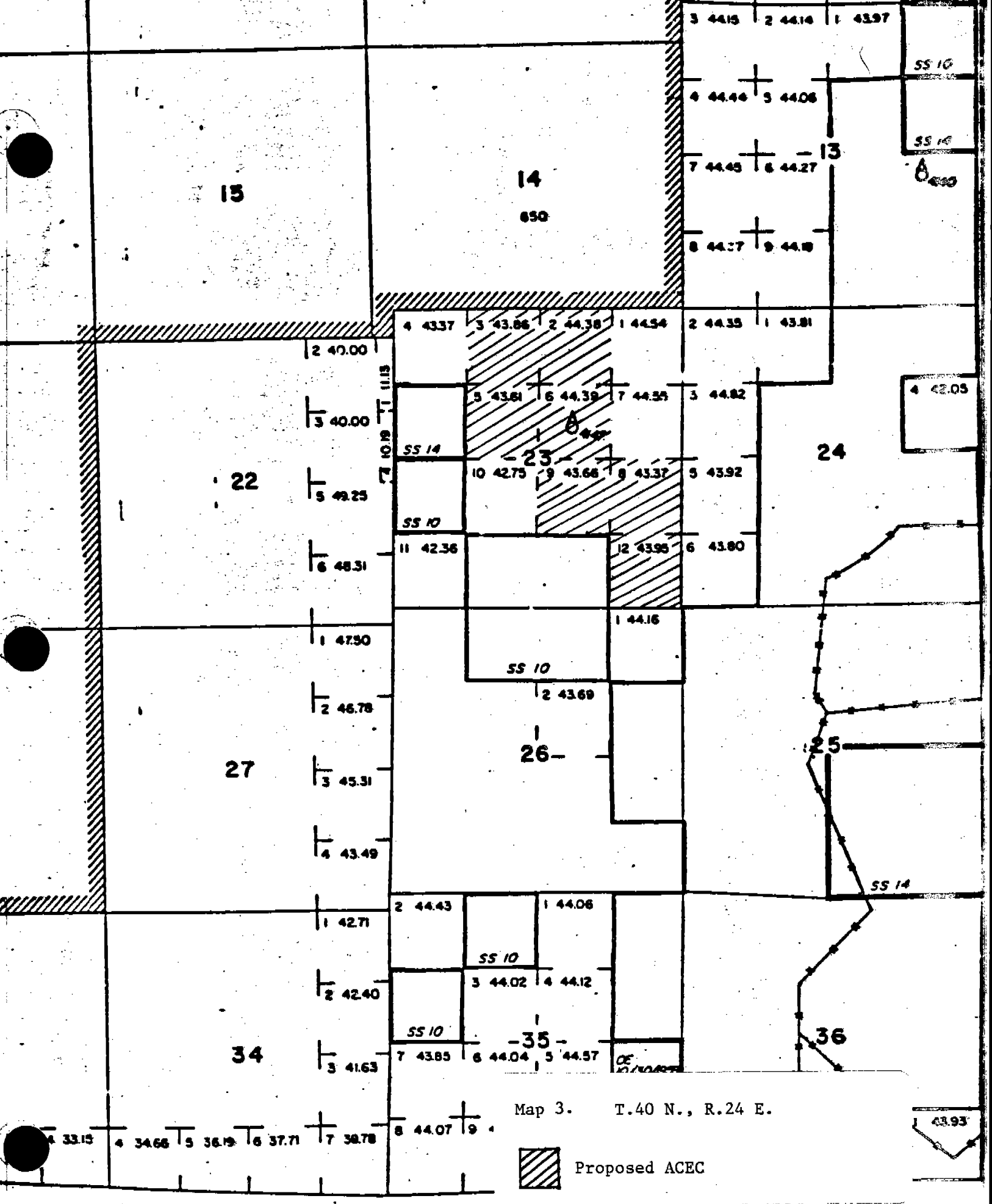
☐ General location of proposed ACEC

Vya AMS Map



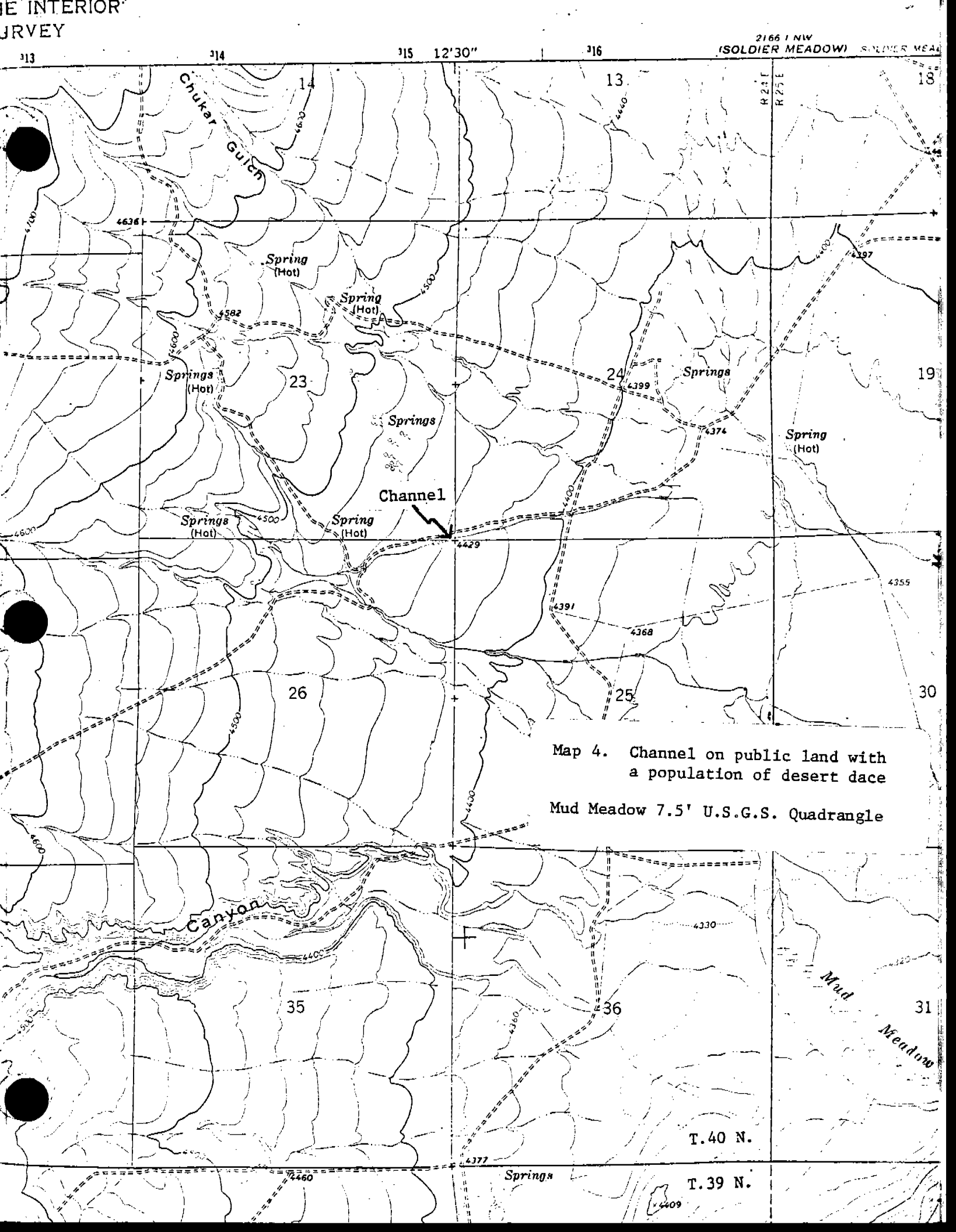
Map 2. Locations of warm springs on public land in Soldier Meadow.

Mud Meadow and Soldier Meadow 7.5' U.S.G.S. Quadrangles



Map 3. T.40 N., R.24 E.

Proposed ACEC



Map 4. Channel on public land with a population of desert dace

Mud Meadow 7.5' U.S.G.S. Quadrangle

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.6

The following areas should be designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Public land areas in the Carson Sink, the Humboldt Sink, and Rye Patch Reservoir.

These areas have also been designated as potential ACECs as wetland habitats.

Rationale:

These areas have been identified as wintering grounds for the endangered bald eagle; thus they qualify for ACEC designation.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) and regulatory proposals to implement it (Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 110, pp. 32590-32602) allow for designation of ACECs. Designation as an ACEC does not in itself require change in management of ACEC areas, but does afford them special consideration in management decisions.

Refer to page ___ of the Sonoma Wildlife URA, and page ___ of the Blue Wing Wildlife URA for information concerning relevance, importance, criticalness, and protectability of this area.

Designation as ACECs will help assure that these endangered species habitats receive the special attention they need. No alternatives were considered.

Support:

None.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

URA data does not identify these areas as being significant bald eagle wintering habitat. This data does indicate that bald eagles have been reported to pass through these areas enroute to their wintering grounds.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommdendation: WL 1.7 ✓

In allotments designated for grazing system development in this land use plan, the forage allocation for wildlife will be entirely within the pastures in which the wildlife use actually occurs, and pastures will not be stocked at rates above their estimated carrying capacity.

Rationale:

Division of allotments by fences could conceivably result in overstocking of pastures if the needs of wildlife were not considered. Implementation of this recommendation will assure that this does not occur.

Implementation of this recommendation will help maintain habitat quality in big game use areas that fall within allotments that will be divided by fences.

No alternative to this recommendation were considered with the exception of "take no action." This alternative was rejected because it was felt that there was a need to call attention to the possibilities mentioned above.

There should be no economic impact by this recommendation since the forage for big game will have already been made.

Support:

None.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Modify the recommendation to read:

In allotments designated for grazing system development, the forage needs for wildlife will be estimated within the pastures where the wildlife use occurs, and the remaining estimated livestock carrying capacity will be used as a guide for determining livestock stocking rates on a per pasture basis.

Reasons

Stocking rates and forage use by all grazing animals must be balanced with forage production. Stocking rates estimated on a per pasture basis must be used as a guide when developing intensive grazing management systems.

WL 1.7 (continued)

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

MFP III

In allotments designated for grazing system development, the forage needs of wildlife will be estimated within the pastures where the wildlife use occurs and will be taken into consideration in the AMP development.

Rationale

Same as MFP II.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.8
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-2 Step 3
-8,-9

MFP 1

Recommendation: WL 1.8

Improve riparian habitat condition throughout the planning area, and once desired improvements have occurred, maintain riparian habitat in good or excellent condition. Among the criteria for good or excellent condition are (1) absence of active gullying or other accelerated erosion, (2) downward trend or absence of invader plant species (iris, sagebrush, etc.), (3) minimal amount of bare ground, (4) abundance or upward trend of desirable grass and forb species, (5) where applicable, minimal grazing utilization of woody plant species, and successful regeneration of woody plant species so that a mid-story is able to develop, (6) where applicable, maintenance or development of a closed or almost closed canopy of aspen trees or other deciduous tree species.

Methods that can be used to obtain and/or maintain good or excellent condition include, but are not limited to, the following:

Livestock management, which includes, but is not limited to:
- -grazing system design
- -relocation of salting stations
- -change of class of livestock
- -livestock herding;

Protective fencing
Use permit restrictions and stipulations
Vegetative manipulation, which includes but is not limited to:
- -herbicidal spraying
- -controlled burning
- -clear cutting
- -re-seeding
- -controlled grazing;

Installation of structural devices, including but not limited to:
- -gabions
- -gully plugs
- -weirs
- -water bars
- -bridges and culverts;

Restricting fire lines to hand lines (no cat lines).

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

WL 1.8 (continued)

Conflicting uses of riparian habitat (road-building, recreation sites construction, etc.) will be permitted in riparian areas only when no other feasible alternative exists, and then an appropriate buffer strip will be left between the stream and the project. This buffer strip should be at least 75 feet. Other appropriate mitigating measures will be stipulated.

Protective fencing will be used on any riparian area that is not meeting management objectives because of livestock or wild horse use.

A number of riparian zones along major streams in the planning area have been recommended for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. However, this is not to be construed as meaning that the present recommendation applies only to those particular riparian zones; it applies to all riparian areas in the planning area.

Riparian areas will be considered key areas in design of grazing systems.

Rationale:

With the devotion of sufficient time, talent, and dollars, there are no problems with the technical feasibility of this recommendation.

Riparian habitat is beyond a doubt the single most important wildlife habitat type in the planning area. Riparian area values are especially important because they are a critical source of biological diversity. Riparian areas are popular recreation areas, excellent sources of rock and aggregate, preferred grazing areas, prospective timber sites, road construction sites, and provide scenic variety. The majority of the planning area's wildlife either depends on riparian areas or uses them disproportionately more than any other habitat type. Riparian aras are fragile and comprise an extremely small percentage of the public lands in the planning area. Many have been destroyed or degraded. This degradation is influencing water quality and quantity; flood frequency and severity; pollution; recreational fisheries; area esthetics; and a wide range of fish and wildlife.

WL 1.8 (continued)

Inventories should be conducted to locate, quantify and determine condition of all riparian habitat in the resource area. At this time, it is known that there are at least 131.5 miles of streams that support riparian habitat.

Protection and management of riparian aras conforms with directives given to federal agencies by the President (Executive Orders 11988 and 11990), and is directed by BLM policy and guidance (BLM Manual 1603.12D) (BLM Manual 6740).

Implementation of this recommendation will help maintain habitat diversity throughout the planning area, and thus it will maintain wildlife species diversity. It is not known exactly how many acres of riparian habitat occur in the planning area, but the loss of this small area would lower the value of habitat throughout the planning area.

The only alternative considered was a "no action specific to riparian habitat" one. It was rejected because of the very high values of riparian habitat for wildlife, and the need to take protective steps to preserve these values.

Economic impacts of this recommendation are difficult to predict since one does not yet know what steps will be needed at each site. The only direct economic loss to anyone would be to range users who would lose the grazing on fenced riparian zones.

Support:

1. Engineering will be needed for design and survey of fences, structural devices, or other management devices.
2. Compliance checks will have to be made on permitted uses to assure that stipulations are followed.
3. Archeology will be needed to clear proposed fencelines and other project sites.
4. Range will be needed in designing of grazing systems.
5. Fire
6. Cadastral

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

See part (B) of combined Multiple Use Recommendation Wildlife 1.5 and Wildlife Aquatic 1.1.

Aspen habitat recommendations are included in combined Multiple Use Recommendation Forestry 1.1, 1.4, and Wildlife 1.9.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.9 ✓

Improve or maintain the condition of a minimum of 3,750 acres of aspen habitat in the planning area. Methods used to improve or maintain condition of aspen habitat will vary from aspen grove to aspen grove, but can include livestock management, protective fencing, burning, clear-cutting, and herbidical spraying. Management should be aimed at attaining and/or maintaining an "excellent" condition in aspen habitat. This means having a closed or nearly closed aspen overstory, a midstory consisting of aspen saplings and various shrubs, and a herbaceous and shrubby understory.

Grazing systems designed for allotments which contain significant stands of aspen should contain at least four pastures. Pastures which contain large amounts of the aspen should be rested at least four consecutive years, or until a sufficient number of saplings have grown beyond the reach of livestock (48 inches). (What a sufficient number of saplings is will depend upon whether or not the aspen stands were disturbed. The number required is much higher for disturbed stands than for undisturbed stands.) This pasture can then be grazed in conjunction with the other pastures in the allotment. This rest will be repeated on a 12-15 year cycle. Allotments which have more than one pasture which have large amounts of aspen can alternate this rest between pastures, as long as each aspen pasture receives the required four years rest consecutively. This grazing system will be applied in the Soldier Meadows, Buffalo Hills (if Rec. WL 1.3 is rejected), Rock Creek, Diamond S, Harmony, Thomas Canyon, Sonoma, Pleasant Valley, Rawhide, and Star Peak allotments, and others if inventories indicate the need.

Remaining allotments which contain smaller amounts of aspen habitat will require rest-rotation grazing systems of no less than three pastures. An acceptable alternative for allotments where, for resource or economic reasons a three or four pasture grazing system will not be developed, is to fence aspen stands to exclude livestock use for the required time period. Protective fencing will be placed around any stand that is not meeting management objectives because of livestock grazing, regardless of the allotment's grazing system design.

Herbicides
Burning

WL 1.9 (continued)

Aspen groves must be considered critical or key areas when designing allotment management plans. Studies will be established to determine the effects of the systems on these areas.

Rationale:

There are no problems with the technical feasibility of this recommendation. AMPs will be designed for many allotments, and fence construction is easily accomplished. The District Manager has the authority to close allotments or portions of allotments to prevent resource destruction under 43 CFR 4120.3 and 43 CFR 6010.4.

In the typical shrub habitat of the planning area, habitat diversity and edge effect are minimal. However, the presence of aspen stands in the shrub habitat adds greatly to habitat diversity and creates the optimum edge effect. Both habitat diversity and edge effect are essential if we are to obtain and maintain the maximum possible wildlife species diversity. Aspen habitat is absolutely essential if we are to maintain populations of many passerine birds, several raptors, and desired numbers of deer. As stated in the Wildlife URAs, aspen habitat is in varying condition within the planning area, but most appears to be in less than good condition. Management of livestock grazing through AMP development and implementation or protective fencing will rehabilitate many aspen stands, but many declining stands will require treatment such as burning, clear-cutting, or herbicidal spraying to kill auxin producing overstories which are inhibiting natural reproduction. Habitat inventories are needed to locate, quantify, and determine condition of all aspen habitat.

Implementation of this recommendation conforms with Section 102 (a)(8) of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976, and BLM Manual Section 1603.12D, as well as the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978.

WL 1.9 (continued)

Acceptance and implementation of this recommendation will directly improve or maintain at least 3,750 acres of wildlife habitat, but it will indirectly affect in a beneficial way many thousands of additional acres by assuring that essential habitat diversity remains on the scene.

The only alternative considered was one of "no specific action for the benefit of aspen habitat." Under this alternative, aspen habitat condition would continue to decline, and many aspen stands would eventually be lost. Even if the present habitat condition were maintained under this alternative, the situation would be undesirable because of the present condition of aspen in the planning area. Thus, this alternative was rejected.

The economic effects of this recommendation would vary depending on how much aspen occurs in any one allotment, or how many pastures contained aspen. The livestock operator would be deprived of the use of the pastures containing aspen, or of the fenced aspen groves, during the closure period.

Support:

1. Forestry will be needed in conducting inventories, analyzing inventories, designing methods of disturbing aspen stands, and for monitoring effect of treatment on both disturbed and undisturbed stands.
2. Range will be needed in design of grazing systems.
3. Fire Control will be needed when prescribed burning aspen stands.
4. Engineering/Operations will be needed for survey and design of fences.
5. Archeology will be needed for clearance of proposed fencelines.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Modify the recommendation to read:

> In the design, implementation, or revision of grazing management systems, plans for horse management areas or horse use areas, consider aspen and mahogany as "critical" management species.
>
> Specific management objectives will be designed for these critical species and these objectives will be used in the activity plans developed on an area.

Reasons

Coordinated planning efforts on an area should develop realistic objectives for these critical management species that will be part of a grazing management plan, horse management plan, or habitat management plan.

WL 1.9 (continued)

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

P III Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.10
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-2 Step 3

+8. -9

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.10 ✓

Improve the condition of meadow habitat, and, once desired improvements have been obtained, maintain meadows in good or excellent condition. Among the criteria for good or excellent condition are (1) absence of active gullys or other accelerated erosion, (2) downward trend or absence of invader species (iris, sagebrush, etc.), (3) minimal amounts or absence of bare ground, (4) abundance or upward trend of desirable grasses and forbs. Methods to be used to obtain desired conditions may vary from site to site, but can include livestock management, protective fencing, herbicidal spraying, controlled burning, relocation of salting stations and water troughs, and, where needed, structural devices such as gabions, gully plugs, weirs, and detention dams.

Grazing systems for allotments containing meadows will consist of at least three pastures, with one pasture given complete rest each year. On allotments where economic or resource factors preclude division into pastures, protective fencing around meadows habitat is an acceptable alternative. Protective fencing will be placed around any meadow not meeting the criteria outlined above because of livestock use.

Meadow and meadow species will be considered to be key areas and key species when designing allotment management plans. Allotment grazing study sites will include meadows in order to monitor meadow condition change in relation to management objectives.

Rationale:

There are no problems concerning the technical feasibility of this recommendation. All of the methods used to rehabilitate and manage meadow habitat have been used on this district in the past, so they can be done.

Implementation of this recommendation conforms with Bureau Manual 1603.12D.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 197

WL 1.10 (continued)

As was pointed out in the Wildlife URAs, meadow habitat is crucial to sage grouse survival, and is probably just as necessary to a variety of other wildlife species. It is known that both mule deer and antelope utilize the forage produced on meadows. Meadows generally produce an abundance of grasses and forbs which remain succulent long after vegetation on surrounding rangelands have dried out. Meadows provide essential habitat diversity and edge effect in what might otherwise be essentially monotypic shrub habitat. Meadows are extremely attractive to both domestic livestock and wild horses because of their forage succulence, and, often, the presence of water. Meadows receive concentrated use by livestock and horses at any time these animals have access to them. Because of this concentrated use, most meadows are in a degraded condition and some are in danger of losing their identity as meadows. Improvement and maintenance of existing meadows will assure that this source of habitat and species diversity does not disappear. This habitat type makes up well under 1% of the resource area.

Implementation of this recommendation will improve not only the meadows, which are directly affected, but also many thousands of acres of surrounding habitat, since grazing systems that improve meadows will also improve surrounding lands. Habitat inventories should be conducted to locate, quantify, and determine condition of all meadows.

The only alternative recommendation considered was that of "take no action specific to meadow habitat." This alternative was rejected because to take no action would, at best, maintain meadows in their present condition, which is unacceptable because their condition is generally less than good. At its worst, acceptance of such a recommendation could result in the total loss of significant amounts of meadow habitat through erosion and/or invasion by undesirable plant species.

Economic effects of this recommendation would likely not be great, since it is probable that grazing systems will be developed for most allotments. Should they not be developed, and the meadows be fenced, economic loss to livestock operators would last as long as the fenced meadows were closed to livestock use. This loss would vary with the amount of meadow habitat in the allotment, and the beginning condition of the meadows.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
WL 1.10
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

WL 1.10 (continued)

Support:

1. Range will be needed for design of livestock grazing systems.
2. Engineering will be required for survey and design of fences and needed structural devices.
3. Fire Control will be required for conducting prescribed burns as needed.
4. Archeology will be needed for conducting clearances for fences and structural devices.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600–21 (April 1

WL 1.10

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Management objectives of activity plans (AMPs, HMA, etc.) will include specific objectives pertaining to improving and maintaining desired riparian areas and meadow habitat.

In the development of activity plans, meadows and riparian areas will be considered as critical areas.

Rationale

Meadow habitat is critical to most wildlife species. Proper action to improving these critical habitat areas must be made. Past livestock grazing practices resulted in unsatisfactory conditions on most meadow habitats in the planning area.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.11
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-3 Step 3
-6, -12

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.11

Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and the area within two miles of each ground, and give proper consideration to other sage grouse habitat by accepting as guidance Nevada Department of Wildlife's Guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitat in Nevada. Nevada Department of Wildlife must be given a minimum of two years notice of any proposed large scale vegetal manipulations in order that they might inventory the area for sage grouse use, and thus provide appropriate input.

In addition, sage grouse strutting grounds and associated use areas must be given similar consideration and protection in the planning and permitting of other types of projects and uses (fences, pipelines, roads, gravel pits, rock gathering, powerline rights-of-way, land exchanges, etc.).

Rationale:

It is technically feasible to carry out this recommendation. Proposed vegetal manipulation projects or other proposals, can be altered, or if need be, abandoned if conflicts occur.

This recommendation complies with FLPMA's requirements for providing wildlife habitat and for multiple Use (Sec. 102[a][7] and [9]) and with BLM policy (Manual 1603.12D).

Sage grouse were at one time the most abundant game bird in Nevada. Their populations have been reduced to the point where hunting seasons are often curtailed or not held at all. This is the case in the planning area, where in most grouse areas, they are present only in very low numbers. Where they are present in larger numbers, seasons are sometimes curtailed because of scarcity or low production. Implementation of this recommendation will lessen the impact of proposed projects on sage grouse, and will go a long way toward insuring that suitable habitat for sage grouse remains in the planning area. Implementation of this recommendation will assure the maintenance of approximately 100,000 acres of sage grouse habitat, and of potentially much more, since there are beyond a doubt many unidentified strutting grounds in the planning area. Inventories should be conducted to locate all strutting grounds.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed
(Instructions on reverse)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Wildlife 1.11	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WL 1.11 (continued)

The only alternative considered was "take no action specific to sage grouse habitat." This alternative was rejected because of the probability that numerous vegetal manipulation projects will be proposed following completion of this land use plan. Each such project has the potential to seriously affect, in an adverse way, sage grouse habitat. Strict adherence to NDOW's guidelines will prevent such adverse impacts.

The economic impacts of the implementation of this recommendation are not known. They may be considerable should proposed vegetal manipulation projects be abandoned because of conflicts with sage grouse habitat, or if other major projects must be altered or abandoned for the same reason.

Support:

None.

MFP II

WL 1.11

Multiple Use Recommendation

Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and give proper consideration to other sage grouse habitat by accepting as guidance Nevada Department of Wildlife's Guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitat in Nevada. Nevada Department of Wildlife must be given a minimum of two years notice of any proposed large-scale vegetal manipulations in order that they might inventory the area for sage grouse use, and thus provide appropriate input.

In addition, sage grouse strutting grounds and associated use areas must be given similar consideration and protection in the planning and permitting of other types of projects and uses (fences, pipelines, roads, gravel pits, rock gathering, powerline rights-of-way, land exchanges, mining, mineral leasing, etc.).

Rationale

Implementation of this recommendation will lessen the impact of proposed projects on sage grouse.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

Sage Grouse

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.12
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

Recommendation: WL 1.12

MFP 1

Preserve broadleaf woodland habitat in the entire resource area by:

1. Limiting firewood and post cutting permits to pinyon and juniper;
2. Responding quickly in fire situations where not-coniferous woodlands are involved.

Rationale:

Woodland types other than pinyon and juniper make up only a very small percentage of the resource area compared to the 468,000 acres of pinyon/juniper and juniper woodlands. These broadleaf woodland types provide habitat diversity that greatly increases the wildlife species diversity and density in the resource area. Juniper is abundant enough near human population centers that this recommendation should cause no hardships in obtaining firewood. The Forestry Activity has made similar recommendations (F 1.2 and 1.3).

Dead and down, and dead standing wood of the broadleaf types is excluded from sale as firewood because these have value as wildlife habitat. Cavity nesting birds are largely dependent on standing dead trees, and downed trees provide structural diversity at ground level, as well as protecting seedlings from grazing.

Implementation of this recommendation will help assure that habitat quality in broadleaf habitats is maintained throughout the resource area.

The only alternative considered was the "no action" one. It was rejected because of the high value of non-coniferous woodland as wildlife habitat, and the difficulty and time involved in reestablishing them if lost.

There should be no economic or social impact from this recommendation.

Support:

Fire Control cooperation is needed for protecting non-coniferous woodlands.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 19

WL 1.12

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Preserve broadleaf woodland habitat in the entire resource area by:

1. Limiting firewood and post cutting to pinyon and juniper;

2. Responding quickly in fire situations where non-coniferous woodlands are involved.

Exceptions are where harvesting or fire has been identified as a management tool.

Rationale

Broadleaf woodland habitat types account for a minute portion of the planning area. Tyese types, however, have high resource values to multi-activities and therefore should be managed with these resource values in mind. The aesthetic and wildlife habitat value outweigh this type's use as fuel wood unless in specific connection with a habitat management plan.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

Fire

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.13
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.13

Provide water for wildlife at all existing water sources by adhering to multiple use principles in the maintenance, use and development of all water sources on public land in the planning area. This will be done by:

1. developing only those water sources absolutely essential for meeting management objectives;
2. leaving water at the source of all water developments;
3. leaving pipelines operational in all years and in all seasons except where weather damage may occur;
4. providing wildlife water outlets along pipelines at regular intervals;
5. providing water at ground level at all troughs;
6. installing escape ramps in all troughs;
7. piping excess water at each trough into a fenced exclosure;
8. not allowing total diversion of water sources for other uses;
9. where necessary, filing for water rights with the State of Nevada;
10. where necessary, purchasing water rights.

Applicable parts of this recommendation will be carried on existing water developments as maintenance is performed. New developments will be taken care of as they are constructed.

Rationale:

There are no problems with the technical feasibility of this recommendation; all of the above steps or methods can be done in conjunction with normal Bureau work.

In an arid or semi-arid area such as the planning area, every water source is essential to the well-being of wildlife. This may be true only for the population of animals using a particular source, but the loss of that source means the loss of that population. The development of many water sources in the past has sometimes decreased habitat values, and has at other items had the potential to increase values by increasing water distribution. Numerous

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed
(Instructions on reverse)

WL 1.13 (continued)

opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat thus were missed because pipelines were installed without wildlife water outlets along them, or they took all water from the source and piped it out onto the desert floor. Where water distribution was increased through pipeline and trough installation, wildlife habitat could have been enhanced by installation of escape ramps in troughs and by piping excess water into fenced exclosures, rather than into unfenced catchments that provide little habitat. Inventories should be conducted to determine where wildife would benefit from implementation of this recommendation.

This recommendation conforms with BLM directives on multiple use management of water (Washington Office Inst. Memo 77-290 and Washington Office Inst. Memo 80-225), and current policy concerning water rights.

Implementation of this objective will maintain or improve habitat quality over the entire planning area, since water sources exist over the entire planning area, though they are more abundant in some areas than in others.

The only alternative considered was to take no action concerning water sources and wildlife. This alternative was rejected because of the need to assure permanent, safe water sources for wildlife in the planning area.

There are no known social or economic effects of this recommendation.

Support:

1. Engineering will be needed for design and installation of the various devices and fences.
2. Archeology will be needed to clear fencelines and water outlet sites.

MFP II

WL 1.13

Multiple Use Recommendation

A. Provide water for wildlife at existing water sources by adhering to multiple use principles in the maintenance, use and development of water sources on public land in the planning area. This will be done by:

1. developing only those water sources absolutely essential for meeting management objectives;
2. leaving water at the source of all water developments;
3. leaving pipelines operational in all years and in all seasons except where weather damage may occur;
4. providing wildlife water outlets along pipelines at regular intervals where feasible;
5. providing water at ground level at all troughs where feasible;
6. installing escape ramps in all troughs;
7. piping excess water at each trough into a fenced enclosure where feasible;
8. not allowing total diversion of water sources for other uses;

Exceptions may be negotiated on a case by case basis (e.g. deep wells requiring pump jacks, and certain windmills outside of the grazing season-of-use).

A. Rationale

This recommendation is a basic restatement of Bureau policy.

B. The water rights portion of this recommendation has been addressed in Multiple Use Recommendation Watershed 2.1.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.14

Coordinate development of new Habitat Management Plans (HMP) and revision of existing deficient ones, so that HMP completion coincides with completion of companion Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). The order in which HMP development should occur is as follows.

Priority	Area and Habitat No.
1	Fox Mtn. (T-01)
2	Black Rock (T-06)
3	Sonoma (T-05)
4	Tobins (T-08)
5	Humboldt (T-11)
6	East Range (T-09)
7	Fox Range (T-13)
8	Stillwaters (T-16)
9	Selenites (T-10)
10	Rye Patch (T-14)
11	Blue Wing (T-15)
12	Buffalo Mtn. (T-17)

Rationale:

HMP development or revision is needed to adequately coordinate wildlife habitat management needs with AMPs and other activities. The HMP outlines goals for maintaining or improving the quantity and quality of wildlife habitat, and provides guidance to be considered in the development of other activity plans. Development of HMPs on the planning area will assure a sound plan for improving or maintaining habitat quality, quantity, and diversity throughout the planning area. Habitat inventories must be conducted prior to HMP development.

This priority list will be followed to the extent possible, meaning that AMP development will follow the HMP list to the extent possible. Where it is necessary to deviate from this list because of resource values or other reasons, both AMP and HMP development will still occur together.

It is Bureau policy to plan, develop, and maintain specific programsfor the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife habitat on public land (BLM Manual 6620.06B).

No alternatives were considered.

Support:

None.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. However, the MFP I recommendation will be made a part of the standard operating procedures for the District.

Recommendation: WL 1.15

MFP 1 Carry out large scale crested wheatgrass seedings, prescribed burns, or herbicidal spray projects in areas other than important wildlife habitat areas (see Overlays), and in ways that mitigate their impacts on wildlife.

Wildlife areas to be avoided include, but are not limited to:

Big game concentration areas;
Big game wintering grounds;
Sage grouse habitat (follow NDOW Guidelines);
Riparian and wetland habitat;
Meadows;
Mountain browse vegetative types;
Raptor concentration areas, especially winter.

Mitigating measures include, but are not limited to:

Leaving islands of undisturbed brush within manipulated areas;
Leaving strips of undisturbed brush along draws and gullies;
Leave a 100 yard wide buffer strip of undisturbed brush around meadows and water sources;
Make no disturbed area wider than 1/4 mile;
Disturb any large areas in 100 foot wide strips or irregular blocks;
Reseed with seed mixtures containing desirable wildlife forage species;
Carefully consider the management scheme for vegetative manipulations in order not to produce pest havens.

Rationale:

Research and experience indicate that vegetative manipulation projects can be disasterous to wildlife, especially if done improperly. Full implementation of this recommendation will assure that any such projects proposed in the planning area will have the least possible effect on wildlife.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) establishes as policy that public land management will be on a multiple use basis (Sec. 102 [a][7]) and that they be managed in a manner that will provide food and habitat for wildlife (Sec. 102 [a][8]). The Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-514) further affirms these principles, and authorizes rangeland improvements on a multiple use basis (Sec. 2[b][2]).

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Wildlife 1.15	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WL 1.15 (continued)

The implementation of this recommendation will help maintain habitat quality by protecting certain habitats, and can improve other habitats by requiring multiple use implementation of vegetative manipulations. Habitat inventories are needed to locate all areas that should be protected from vegetative manipulation.

There were no other alternatives considered.

The economic impact of this recommendation will vary depending on the degree to which proposed vegetative manipulations are modified because of the recommendation.

Support:

None.

WL 1.15

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Carry out the large-scale crested wheatgrass seedings or herbicidal spray projects in areas other than important wildlife habitat areas, and in ways that mitigate their impacts on wildlife.

Rationale

Proper mitigation of adverse wildlife impacts can be addressed in Environmental Analysis process required on any proposed vegetation manipulation project.

Should mitigation of significant adverse wildlife impacts not be possible, then the no action alternative should be selected by the authorized officer.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation. Revise the MFP I recommendation and make it part of the District's standard operating procedure.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
ASonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.16
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

Recommendation: WL 1.16 ✓

MFP 1

Retain in public ownership all public lands containing valuable wildlife habitat, as determined by appropriate Bureau personnel at the time of disposal proposals.

Rationale:

The disposal of isolated small or large tracts of public land containing valuable wildlife habitat can diminish the quality of all surrounding public land habitats, and can decrease public access to and enjoyment of wildlife uses, both consumptive and nonconsumptive. Habitat inventories are needed to locate all valuable wildlife habitats in order that they be protected from disposal.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) states that it is U.S. policy to retain the public lands in Federal ownership unless the public interest is better served through disposal (Sec. 102 [a][1]). Disposal of valuable wildlife habitat is seldom in the public interest.

No other alternatives were considered.

Support:

None.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed
(Instructions on reverse)

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Retain in public ownership all public lands containing valuable wildlife habitat, as determined by appropriate Bureau personnel at the time of disposal proposals, unless it is determined that such lands, because of its location or other characteristics is difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands or there is a higher and better use.

Rationale

Restatement of Bureau policy.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.17 ✓

As sites are identified and/or need or opportunity arises, obtain easements for or through, or acquire by purchase, exchange, or other means those private lands intermingled with public lands that contain valuable wildlife habitats such as riparian zones, meadows, etc.

Rationale:

There are many private inholdings within the planning area which contain valuable wildlife habitat, or contain the access routes to that habitat. Occasionally, there will be instances in which, for the improvement of wildlife habitat, it would be desirable for the Bureau to have management capability on these private lands, or it may become necessary to acquire rights-of-ways through private lands to assure access. Implementation of this recommendation would allow such to occur.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) (Sec. 205[a]) enables the acquisition of private lands or interests therein for public purposes.

Implementation of this recommendation will enable better management of wildlife habitat, and assure public access to that habitat.

Support:

Lands Activity will be required for necessary case work should any such action occur.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Modify the recommendation to read:

Through exchange, easement, or by purchase acquire management control or public ownership of the private lands within the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area.

Reasons

Current landowner has expressed an interest in obtaining public land (through exchange for his private land) adjacent to one of his base properties.

The selected public lands are within the Lahontan Cutthroat Natural Area.

Public ownership or control of this critical wildlife habitat would ensure that this area is adequately protected.

Support

Lands - Appraisal

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

As sites are identified and/or need or opportunity arises--acquire by exchange or other means those private lands intermingled with public lands that contain high resource values within the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.18

Modify existing fences on public lands to minimize conflicts with wildlife. Known problem fences are as follows:

Project 0499 - 6 miles
Project 0270 - 6 miles
Project 0307 - 6 miles
Project 4171 - 4.4 miles
Project 4172 - 2 miles
Project 0770 - 2.4 miles

Other fences will be identified in the future.

Rationale:

Improperly constructed or placed fences can seriously impede the movements of big game animals. This impedance is seldom necessary, since fences can be designed and/or placed to minimize these problems and still hold cattle. Within the planning area, fence locations are generally known, but in many cases, fence design (wire spacing) is not known, and this is often the most critical factor in degree of hinderance to wildlife movements.

There are no problems with the technical feasiblity of this recommendation. Modification of fences is in compliance with Bureau mandates for multiple use management of public land (FLPMA Sec. 102[a][7]), Bureau policy for protection of wildlife habitat (Manual 1603.12D), and Bureau policy concerning fence construction and modification (Manual 1737).

Implementation of this recommendation wil improve habitat quality in all areas presently affected by improperly constructed or placed fences, and will help maintain habitat quality in areas where fences are proposed in the future. Fences that conflict with wildlife will be identified during habitat inventories.

No alternatives to this recommendation were considered, and it is felt that adverse economic impacts will be insignificant.

Support:

Engineering wil be needed in writing specifications for fence modifications.

WL 1.18 (continued)

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Land use decision is not necessary to implement this program.

Modifications to existing fences have been and can be included in the Bureau's program without a specific land use decision being made. This recommendations is a restatement of existing policy.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.19

Install and maintain water catchment devices to provide water to wildlife in otherwise suitable habitat. Several potential sites are: Fox Range, Lake Range, Buffalo Hills, Calico Range, potential chukar areas in Blue Wing Planning Unit, Buffalo Mountain, Edna Mountain, and Stillwater Range. Exact placement within these ranges will be coordinated with Department of Wildlife.

Rationale:

Habitat inventories in the planning area will undoubtedly reveal areas that have suitable habitat for these wildlife species requiring free water, with the exception of adequate water sources. Implementation of this recommendation will allow those species to occupy this otherwise suitable habitat. Such areas will be identified during habitat inventories.

This recommendation is in conformance with U.S. policy to provide food and habitat for wildlife on the public lands (FLPMA, Sec. 102 [a][8]), and directives to manage rangelands so that they are as productive as feasible for all rangeland values, including wildlife (PRIA, Sec. 2 [b][2]).

A "no action" alternative was considered, but was rejected because of the opportunity to increase usable habitat on the public land that this recommendation affords.

There should be no economic impact from this recommendation.

Support:

Engineering aid will be required to design and install water catchment devices.

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Land use decision not required to imlement this recommendation.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.20
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP 1

Recommendation: WL 1.20

Initiate fire rehabilitation measures immediately following suppression of fires affecting significant acreages or areas of important wildlife habitat. Significance and/or importance will be determined by the Area Manager, in consultation with the District and Area Wildlife Biologists.

Rehabilitation will be accomplished as outlined in BLM Draft Manual 7441, or its successors, and will include, but are not limited to the following:

Waterbarring of fire control lines;
Closure to livestock and/or wild horse use (allotment or pasture closure, or protective fencing);
Reseeding of burned areas (using native plant seed, if possible).

Rationale:

Wildfires often decimate important wildlife habitat. This decimation need not be total or permanent, however. Prompt initiation of effective rehabiltative measures can lessen the effects of wildfire.

It is the policy of the Bureau that fire rehabilitation is second in importance only to fire suppression (BLM Draft Manual 7441).

Economic impact of this recommendation will vary. It could be considerable should entire allotments be closed for rehabilitative purposes.

There were no alternatives to this recommendation considered.

Support:

1. Range will be required to close allotments or pastures.
2. Engineering will be required for survey and design of fences, and for waterbarring of firelines.
3. Soil, Water, and Air support will be neeed for development of rehabilitation plans.
4. Archeology will be needed for clearance of proposed fences, and on proposed seedings.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600–21 (April 197

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Initiate fire rehabilitation measures immediately following suppression of fires affecting significant acreages or areas of important wildlife habitat. Significance and/or importance will be determined by the Area Manager, in consultation with the District and Area Wildlife Biologists.

Rehabilitation will be accomplished as outlined in BLM Draft Manual 7441, or its successors, and will include, but are not limited to the following:

Waterbarring of fire control lines;
Closure to livestock and/or wild horse use (allotment or pasture closure, or protective fencing);
Reseeding of burned areas (using native plant seed, if possible).

Rationale

MFP III

Restatement of Bureau policy.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation. Part of the District's standard operating procedures.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.21

The District's Fire Management Plan will include provisions for conducting prescribed burns for the benefit of wildlife habitat.

Rationale:

Prescribed fire offers the opportunity to manipulate wildlife habitat for the betterment of all forage consumers. It can also be far more economical, and less environmentally damaging, than some other vegetative manipulation methods.

FLPMA and PRIA are enabling authority for this recommendation.

Support:

Fire Management assistance will be required in formulating the prescribed burning plan and in conducting the burns.

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Reject the recommendatio.

Reasons

Land use decision not required to implement this recommendation.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

MFP III

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. Part of District standard operating procedure.

Prescribed burning rejection

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.22

All special use permits for powerline rights-of-ways granted in the future within raptor areas in the resource area will contain stipulations requiring that powerline support structures be designed to minimize the possibility of bird electrocution due to contacting two or more wires simultaneously, or a hot wire and ground simultaneously. In addition, such rights-of-ways will not be permitted within 400 yards of roads, unless absolutely necessary. This will minimize shooting of raptors perching on power poles.

Where possible, this recommendaiton also applies for existing rights-of-ways when power companies apply for permits to modify existing lines.

Rationale:

Raptors are protected birds under Federal law (Bald Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Endangered Species Act) and under state law (NRS 501.110). Implementation of this recommendation will enhance the protection afforded to raptors by these laws.

No alternatives were considered.

Economic impacts of this recommendation will vary, depending on plans of power companies requesting rights-of-ways.

Support:

Lands activity will have to include stipulations in special use permits.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Combined with Multiple Use Recommendation for Land 4.1. See that recommendation.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. This recommendation is the same as Lands Recommendation 4.1.

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.23

Protect from unnecessary disturbance or destruction all raptor nest sites that are presently active or which are known to have been active in the last five years.

Rationale:

Off all parts or types of raptor habitat, the nest site is the most important, and it is also the site where raptors are most vulnerable to man's direct influence. Nest disturbance often results in nest abandonment. Very few active nest sites are known; there are beyond a doubt many additional nest sites in the planning area. A raptor nest site inventory should be conducted in the resource area, in cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This recommendation is in conformance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Nevada Revised Statute 501.110.

No alternatives were considered, and there are expected to be few adverse economic impacts from this recommendation.

Support:

None.

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Land ue decision not required to implement this recommendation.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. Part of District standard operating procedure.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife 1.24
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-5 Step 3 -7, -13

MFP 1

Recommendation: WL 1.24 ✓

Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas as reintroductions are made, and in other crucial wildlife habitats as they are identified.

Rationale:

Lambing season is a critical period for bighorn sheep. Disturbance during this period can result in abortion of fetuses, abandonment of young, or premature leaving of the lambing areas which results in excessive lamb mortality.

Authority to make such temporary closures is contained in 43 CFR 6292.3(g).

Support:

None.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing seasons (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas as reintroductions are made.

Rationale

Same as MFP I rationale.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

MFP III Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.25
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-5 Step 3
-7, -13

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.25 ✓

Limit new trail or road construction on potential bighorn sheep range to minimize access. Potential bighorn sheep ranges include the following:

Fox Range
Buffalo Hills
Granite Range
Calico Range
Black Rock Range
Selenite Range
Sonoma Range
Tobin Range
East Range
Stillwater Range
Humboldt Range
West Humboldt Range

Rationale:

Contacts between man and bighorn sheep are detrimental to the sheep. Limiting new roads and trails in potential sheep range will help minimize such contact. This in turn will help make any future sheep reintroductions successful.

Support:

None.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600–21 (April 19

WL 1.25

MFP II Multiple Use Recommendation

Limit new trail or road construction on potential bighorn sheep range to minimize access. Potential bighorn sheep ranges include the following:

Fox Range
Buffalo Hills
Granite Range
Calico Range
Black Rock Range
Selenite Range
Sonoma Range
Tobin Range
East Range
Stillwater Range
Humboldt Range
West Humboldt Range

Existing road or trails may be closed or use limited if it is determined that they interfere with the normal life processes of the bighorn sheep.

Rationale

Adverse impacts to bighorn sheep habitat should be limited or mitigated as possible. Limiting road construction in bighorn habitat will reduce contacts between man and sheep, thereby creating favorable bighorn habitat.

Impacts of road construction in bighorn habitat should be carefully analyzed in the E.A. process to determine if the impacts to sheep can be mitigated.

FP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife 1.26
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-1 Step 3
-7, -11

MFP I

Recommendation: WL 1.26 ✓

Improve waterfowl habitat in the following areas:

Carson Sink
Humboldt Sink
Rye Patch and Pit Taylor Reservoirs
Brook Spring
High Rock Lake
Dry Lake
Reservoirs along Mud Meadow Creek
Other areas as identified.

Rationale:

Waterfowl habitat is a comparatively rare and unusual thing in an arid climate such as exists in the planning area. Every effort should be made to maximize the potential of all such habitats. The above listed areas provide the majority of waterfowl habitat in the planning area, and while some areas have little public land, much could still be done to improve that habitat.

Support:

Engineering will be needed to aid in feasibility, determinations, and survey and design of proposed projects.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1

WL 1.26

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Through a coordinated planning approach in the development of activity plans (AMPs, HMPs, HMAs, etc.) ensure that waterfowl habitats are adequately addressed and where appropriate provide for improved waterfowl habitat conditions.

Rationale

Waterfowl habitat is a comparatively rare and unusual thing in the planning area. A coordinated planning approach to activity plans will ensure that these rare habitats are maintained or improved where appropriate.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

District Manager's Decision

Maintain and improve habitat for sensitive, protected, threatened and endangered species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered and Threatened List, BLM - Nevada Department of Wildlife Sensitive Species List and those protected by existing Federal and state laws and regulations. Those presently listed are indicated below:

Endangered	Threatened	Sensitive	Protected
American Peregrine Falcon	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	Spotted Bat	All raptors
Bald Eagle		California Bighorn sheep	

Rationale

This recommendation does not list specific areas because of a lack of sufficient data. Inventories are needed to identify habitats occupied by these species and other species which may quality for inclusion in one of the lists mentioned above.

The American peregrine falcon, bald eagle and spotted bat are suspected of occurring in the planning area, but no recent, reliable sitings have been reported.

California bighorn sheep are not present in the planning area, but fourteen (14) potential areas for reintroduction have been identified.

All raptor use areas have not been identified. Known habitats are documented in the URAs.

It is Bureau policy to provide special management attention to wildlife which fall under the categories listed above (Manual 6840). The animals were placed on these lists because of adverse impacts to their populations and habitat, and in some instances, their potential for extinction. These animals and their habitats require special management attention with the objective to maintain and increase their population levels through habitat protection and improvements. Failure to do so will assure that populations will remain at existng levels or be reduced.

Maintenance and improvement of their habitats will enhance these species. Where conflicts occur between the perpetuation of these animals and other uses, the needs of these species must receive special attention.

Programs for the enhancement and protection of their habitat must be coordinated with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Public Law 985-632, 16 USC 1531 Sec. 7(a) and Manual 6840).

.46a Aquatic

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN – STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name *(MFP)*	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife Aquatic
Objective Number	WLA-1

Objective: WLA-1

Improve and maintain the condition of all the aquatic habitat of each stream, lake, or reservoir having the potential to support a sport fishery or threatened or endangered fish species, at a level conducive to the establishment and maintenance of a healthy fish community.

Rationale:

Some Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area streams were eliminated from the Nevada Department of Wildlife fish stocking program because of degraded fish habitat which will no longer support fish reproduction and in certain cases fish survival.

There are 24 streams (89 miles on public land) potentially capable of supporting fish in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. It must be recognized that these are not blue ribbon class trout streams, however, the relative value of this type of stream is very high. This is because better fishing waters are not available to Nevada anglers within reasonable travel time. The riparian/stream zone supports much of the recreation in the resource area.

Estimates indicate that sport fishing contributes significantly to the state economy. BLM figures for recreation use of public land and Arizona figures for cost of family fishing trips were used to estimate that an additional 78.2 million dollars per year would be added to the economy of the 10 western states if aquatic habitat in BLM streams were improved to support their potential fishery (URA).

Fishing pressure in Pershing County has increased significantly (78%) in past years. This is due mostly to Rye Patch Reservoir. Fishing pressure in Humboldt County has increased by 58%. Nevada anglers will utilize the fishery resource and seem willing to take advantage of new water. It was determined by the stream survey (Fisheries URA III) that all the streams in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area were in a deteriorated condition and that the watershed, riparian zone and streamland erosion problems associated with the deteriorated fish habitat were caused almost entirely by livestock. If it is to be a management objective to utilize the resource are riparian/stream zones to provide fish production, wildlife production, water quality, recreation, sustained water production flood control and groundwater recharge at a greater level and on a sustained basis then the following changes in the management of lands adjacent to the streams must occur:

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife Aquatic
Objective Number	WLA-1

WLA-1 (continued)

1. The streams should be classified as "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" because of their multiple use values, fragile nature, contribution to the diversity of the surrounding lands, value as habitat and water sources for migrating and resident wildlife, as well as the fishery. The ACEC classification would mark these areas for special consideration. Assurance is necessary that adequate management be provided to improve and maintain the habitat condition of these areas to a level which meets the management objectives of the resource area.

2. Improvement of the stream habitat is dependent on improving the condition of the watershed and riparian zone vegetation. This can be accomplished by either fencing out livestock from these areas or implementing rest-rotation grazing systems or allotment management plans. Pastures, periods of use and intensity of use should be designed with maintenance of the riparian/stream habitat and the fishery resource as a management plan or grazing system objective.

3. Develop aquatic habitat, management plans which interrelate with and are complimentary to the allotment management plans and terrestrial wildlife habitat management plans.

4. Cooperative agreements must be developed with willing owners of lands on and adjacent to the streams to allow for the management of the stream as a complete system.

5. Point sources of soil erosion into the streams such as road crossing and soil disturbance from mining must be controlled.

6. Water rights to stream water must be protected or obtained by BLM to prevent dewatering and the loss of fish habitat.

7. The proper use of fire fighting equipment and chemicals along streams must be established.

8. Cooperative agreements for stocking of fish and data collection to monitor the condition of the populations must be developed with the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

These management options are dealt with in detail and specifics as recommendations WLA 1.1 through WLA . All the recommendations are interrelated and are part of an overall management scheme to improve the aquatic habitat in the resource area and increase the fishery available to Nevada anglers or in other words accomplish Objective WLA #1.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife Aquatic 1.1
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP 1

Recommendation: WLA 1.1

To mark streams and other water sources for special management attention and to assure that adequate management is provided to improve and maintain the condition of the resource area's fishing streams at a level which meets the management objectives of the resource area, designate the resource fishing streams as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (URA and MFP Overlays). In support of Terrestrial Wildlife Recommendaiton WL 1.5, and since much of the reasoning for the designation of the fishing streams as ACEC also applies to the resource area's streams which do not support a sport fishery, designate those riparian/stream zones identified by Terrestrial Wildlife MFP Recommendation WL 1.5 as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The resource area's non-fishing waters are further identified on the Water Resources Overlay (Developed and Non-developed Waters) as well as the Sonoma-Gerlach Water Resource Inventory.

Designate Mahogany Creek and its water which is enclosed in the Mahogany Creek Natural Area and Summer Camp Creek which is tributary to Mahogany Creek as ACEC for spawning habitat for its Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (URA).

Designate the Soldiers Meadows Warm Springs as ACEC for Soldiers Meadows desert dace habitat. The Soldiers Meadows desert dace is found nowhere but these warm springs and has been proposed as a threatened or endangered species (URA).

Rationale:

The authority for use of the designation ACEC and the criteria for evaluation of the riparian/stream zone as ACEC are discussed in detail in the Sonoma and Buffalo Hills Fisheries URA III.

The Federal Land and Policy Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 provides the foundation for recognition and proper management of riparian and stream habitat on public land. BLM riparian/wetland policy (Memorandum No. 78-410), based on FLPMA, is defined as "the protection of high value streams, riparian zones, and wetland habitats is to be accomplsihed when necessary to preserve or restore fisheries, wildlife, water quality, and other important values provided by this habitat."

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

WLA 1.1 (continued)

The Wetland-Riparian Area Protection and Management Manual 6740 Section 23A states that "Important fisheries . . . will receive special management consideration" and that grazing "management will be adjusted to provide for recovery of riparian habitat . . ." Grazing management is defined to include "livestock management practices or protective fencing to exclude grazing use in riparian areas."

Sections 102 (a)(11) of FLPMA requires prompt development of regulations and plans to protect Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Section 103 defines ACEC as areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. Organic Act Directive No. 77-77 states that wetland riparian areas qualify as ACEC.

In any case the Public Lands and Resource Planning System (Federal Register, Vol. 44 No. 153, August 7, 1979, pp. 46386-46401) requires that an area meet four criteria before it qualifies for designation as ACEC. These are relevance, importance, criticalness and protectability.

FLPMA stipulates that priority be given to the establishment and protection of ACEC and defines ACEC as areas needing special management attention to protect certain values. The past trend in range management in the Winnemucca District has been to treat large areas with grazing management programs such as AMPs on grazing systems. These AMPs or grazing systems were designed mainly to produce upland forage and because of pasture size and placement made the management of the riparian stream zone impossible and conflicted with associated resource values. These facts are reflected in the poor condition of the Sonoma-Gerlach streams and the fishery resource. If the riparian/stream zones are to be allowed to redevelop and support a fishery resource then grazing will either have to be eliminated from them or special management will have to occur. FLPMA through the ACEC program and BLM policy have declared that this be done.

The Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area streams qualify for designation as ACEC because:

WLA 1.1 (continued)

1. Relevance - The following streams identified in detail in the URA and in recommendation WLA 1.3 either support or have the potential to support a sport fishery.

Sonoma Planning Unit - Bushee Creek, Buena Vista Creek, Clear Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Hoffman Canyon Creek, Indian Creek, Pole Creek, Rock Creek, Rocky Canyon Creek, Sonoma Creek, Star Creek, Thomas Canyon Creek, and Water Canyon Creek.

Buffalo Hills Planning Unit -- Cottonwood Creek, Granite Creek, Mahogany Creek, Negro Creek, Red Mountain Creek, Rock Creek, Slumgullion Creek, Snow Creek, Soldiers Creek, Summer Camp Creek.

These streams and other riparian zones have a variety of sometimes conflicting values which also contribute to their relevance as ACEC: road construction sites, timber and firewood, wildlife production, recreation, sources of rock and aggregate, esthetics, agriculture, water quality, surface water production, groundwater storage and recharge, flood control, scientific study, and archeological and historical sites.

2. Importance - As noted above the riparian/stream zones are critical for multiple use management. They provide variety to the desert landscape and are more productive in terms of biomass than the surrounding lands. They also provide resting sites, corridors for migration and sources of water for wildlife. The importance of the riparian/stream zone to wildlife is treated in detail in the URA (Section II A2).

Fishing pressure in Humboldt County increased by 58% from 1968 to 1974 while the habitat deteriorated and fishery resource decreased. Fishing pressure in Pershing County increased by 78% during the same period mainly because of new fishing waters in Rye Patch Reservoir. These facts demonstrate that Nevada anglers desire to pursue the sport of fishing and they are quick to utilize new fishing waters. Fishing pressure will increase if the fishery resource is improved and this can only be accomplished through the improvement of the riparian/stream habitat.

WLA 1.1 (continued)

3. Criticalness - Certain types of recreation, mining and grazing all conflict with the general well-being of the riparian stream zone. These and other uses which cause damage to the riparian/stream zone are treated in detail in the URA (Section II,B,3).

What is left after all the conflicts are boiled down is erosion and erosion constitutes irreparable damage, e.g. 20 foot deep cutbanks on many streams. Erosion is caused by mechanical damage to streambanks, removal of soil binding vegetation and severe runoff caused by the inability of the watershed to retain precipitation. The results of erosion of the stream are the loss of fish habitat and the reduction or elimination of the fishery resource. As the stream bed deepens the water table drops and meadows and riparian vegetation dependent on the water table are lost. Many species of wildlife depend on these types of vegetative habitat. Specific problems associated with each stream are discussed in the URA (Section IIc).

4. Protectability - Riparian, stream zone characteristics, management, and restoration are discussed in detail in the Fisheries URA (Section IIB,4). Opportunities for development and management for each stream are treated in detail in the Fisheries URA (Section IID).

It has been stated that there cannot be multiple use on public lands if grazing is eliminated or restricted. FLPMA recognizes that this is definitely not true. FLPMA points out that all lands are not necessarily suited to all uses. The act's definition of multiple use requires "management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet present and future needs of the American people" and recognizes that in some cases "the use of some of the land for less than all of the resources" may be wise. The most significant and damaging use of the riparian/stream zone in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area is grazing. Unrestricted grazing in the riparian/stream zone virtually eliminates or drastically reduces the following uses: sport fish production, wildife production, water quality, flood control, groundwater recharge, recreation, production of trees, and esthetics. Eight uses for one isn't a good trade.

WLA 1.1 (continued)

Restriction or elimination of grazing would solve most of the problems concerned with the riparian/stream zone, therefore, these zones are protectable.

Section II-B-3-d, of the Fisheries URA describes in detail the relationship between livestock grazing and the condition of the riparian stream zone. Section II-B-4 describes in detail the characteristics of riparian and fish habitat and methods to manage or restore them through grazing management.

The question has been raised as to the need for priorities. Should only certain high priority streams be designated ACEC. The fact remains that all the resource area streams other than Mahogany Creek are in poor condition. All the streams deserve the protection of the ACEC designation but it must be realized that not all their problems can be solved at once. Priorities can then be applied based on distance from population centers and potential for sport fish production.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife Aquatic 1.2
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP

Recommendation: WLA 1.2

It is recommended that riparian/stream zones be identified as separate management units and removed from general management under grazing systems. This can best be done by fencing the riparian/stream zone to prevent grazing use. The following streams would provide the most benefit per cost of fencing. This detemination was made on the basis of percent pubic ownership and stream flow volume: Soldiers Creek, Bushee Creek, Clear Creek, Coyote Creek, Hoffman Canyon Creek, Rocky Canyon Creek, Sonoma Creek. Priority should be given to Clear Creek and Sonoma Creek because of their proximity to a population center. Plans to fence those streams not found suitable at this time should be developed when agreements with private landowners are developed to allow fencing of the entire stream or private lands along the stream are acquired through sale or exchange.

Rationale:

Riparian/stream zones are critical to multiple use planning because of their diversified and sometimes conflicting values (URA). Management for them should be developed on a site by site basis. The most intensive use of the riparian zone in the resource area is grazing which often utilizes the stream zone to the exclusion of other uses such as : fish production, wildlife production, water quality, recreation, water production, flood control and groundwater recharge (URA). The effect of overuse of the riparian/stream zone by grazing on the fishery resource is well documented (URA). Fencing to restrict grazing is the best way to develop the potential stream fishery in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. It has been suggested that on a BLM-wide basis the cost of fencing would be offset by the economic benefit derived from increased angler use of the improved fishery (URA, PAA). The cost of fencing can also be reduced by prudent use of the fences for allotment and pasture boundaries. In some cases where the slopes of the watershed are too steep to be grazed, gap-fencing can be done. The most significant effect of this action on the range uses will be the loss of the riparian zone for grazing, water sources, and loafing areas. Water and shade may have to be established away from the riparian/stream zone. The fishery resource has specific habitat requirements (URA); complete elimination of grazing from the riparian/stream zone is considered the best way to redevelop these habitat features (URA).

Support:

Operations - fence construction, surveying
Range - grazing decisions.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

WLA 1.2

Multiple Use Recommendation

These recommendations were combined with Multiple Use Recommendation Wildlife 1.5. See that recommendation.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	WLA 1.3
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

MFP | Recommendation: WLA 1.3 ✓

In order to improve and maintain the riparian zone and aquatic habitat at a level which will support the potential sport fishery in all the available habitat in the resource area, develop and implement a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for each stream in the resource area.

Priority for HMP development should be given to those streams having the potential for "habitat expansion" i.e. no fish currently exist in these stream but could if the condition of the habitat were improved. These streams are:

Bushee Creek	Cottonwood Creek (BH)	Snow Creek
Eldorado Canyon Creek	Rock Creek (BH)	Soldiers Creek
Water Canyon	Slumgullion Creek	

The rest of the streams are classified as having the potential for habitat improvement, i.e. the streams would support larger populations of trout if the habitat were improved. It is strongly suspected that some of the streams in this classification no longer support any sport fish.

Granite Creek	Cottonwood Creek (S)	Rock Creek (S)
Red Mountain Creek	Coyote Creek	Sonoma Creek
Rocky Canyon Creek	Hoffman Canyon Creek	Star Creek
Summer Camp Creek	Water Canyon Creek	Clear Creek
Buena Vista Creek	Thomas Canyon Creek	Indian Creek
Pole Creek		

The habitat management plans should be developed with the following features.

1. Develop each plan on the basis of the individual characters of each stream (URA, Stream Survey, Step 3 Overlays). A generalized plan developed for all streams will not meet all the needs of each one.

2. Develop each plan before or concurrently with and to be complimentary with the AMPs or grazing systems associated with each stream.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

WLA 1.3 (continued)

3. Develop each plan to promote the fishery resource by developing fish habitat through the improvement of the vegetative condition of the riparian zone (URA).

4. Allow fish habitat features such as undercut banks, silt-free gravels, pools and riffles to develop naturally as the riparian zone stabilizes. Utilize artificial stream structures only in special cases and as temporary measures.

5. Utilize natural materials to improve aquatic habitat such as placing boulders in the stream channel and planting willows to stabilize the stream banks. Anchor cut shrubs along the stream banks to limit cattle access and protect them from erosion and ice damage. They also trap sediments and build the banks until living vegetation can take over.

6. Contract with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to survey the fish populations in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource area. The most recent data was collected in 1954.

7. Inventory the aquatic invertebrate communities in the various stream and spring habitats within the resource area. Recent evidence indicates that the occurrence of previously undescribed and locally distributed endemic invertebrates species may be high.

8. Develop HMPs before AMPs or grazing systems.

Rationale:

The habitat management plan should be a major step in the comprehensive management and protection of the riparian/stream zone as areas of critical environmental concern. Streams vary in their characteristics and therefore must vary in their management approach. The stabilizing effect of riparian zone on the aquatic habitat is firmly documented so the actions outlined in the HMP should be directed toward improving the condition of the riparian habitat (URA).

Support:

Development of the HMP - none.
Implementation of the HMP - Operations - fence construction, stream structure construction, vegetation planting.
Range - grazing decisions.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Through a coordinated planning approach develop a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for each stream in the resource area.

Priority for HMP development should be on streams that have the potential for habitat improvement as listed below:

1. Sonoma Creek
2. Elbow Canyon Creek
3. Red Mountain Creek
4. Water Canyon Creek
5. Thomas Canyon Creek
6. Clear Creek
7. Granite Creek
8. Rocky Canyon Creek
9. Summer Camp Creek
10. Buena Vista Creek
11. Pole Creek
12. Cottonwood Creek (Sonoma)
13. Coyote Creek
14. Hoffman Canyon Creek
15. Rock Creek (Sonoma)
16. Star Creek
17. Indian Creek

The other streams in the planning area have been identified as having potential for "habitat expansion" i.e., no fish currently exist in these streams but could if the condition of the habitat improved.

Priority for HMPs on these streams are:

1. Water Canyon Creek (Sonoma)
2. Cottonwood Creek (Buffalo Hills)
3. Bushee Creek (Sonoma)
4. Rock Creek (Buffalo Hills)
5. Eldorado Canyon Creek (Sonoma)
6. Soldiers Creek (Buffalo Hills)
7. Slumgullion Creek (Buffalo Hills)
8. Snow Creek (Buffalo Hills)

Rationale

Existing fishery habitat should be improved prior to expansion of new habitats. Priority within categories were based upon proximity to communities and miles of public land involved on each stream.

HMPs development and implementation should greatly increase the fishery resource.

MFP III

WLA 1.3

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Through a coordinated planning approach develop a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for each stream in the resource area.

Priority for HMP development should be on streams that have the potential for habitat improvement as listed below:

1. Sonoma Creek -
2. Elbow Canyon Creek -
3. Red Mountain Creek - GRANITE
4. Water Canyon Creek -
5. Thomas Canyon Creek -
6. Clear Creek -
7. Granite Creek - GRANITE
8. Rocky Canyon Creek - HUMBOLTS
9. Summer Camp Creek - BLACK ROCKS
10. Buena Vista Creek -
11. Pole Creek - SONOMAS
12. Cottonwood Creek (Sonoma)
13. Coyote Creek - GRANITE
14. Hoffman Canyon Creek
15. Rock Creek (Sonoma)
16. Star Creek - SEAR PEAK
17. Indian Creek -
18. Water Canyon Creek (Sonoma)
19. Cottonwood Creek (Buffalo Hills)
20. Bushee Creek (Sonoma)
21. Rock Creek (Buffalo Hills)
22. Eldorado Canyon Creek (Sonoma)
23. Soldiers Creek (Buffalo Hills)
24. Slumgullion Creek (Buffalo Hills)
25. Snow Creek (Buffalo Hills)
26. Mahogany Creek - BLACK ROCKS

Rationale

Coleman - 407

Same as MFP II.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife Aquatic 1.4
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

MFP 1

Recommendation: WLA 1.4 ✓

Include the improvement then maintenance of the condition of the riparian/stream habitat and the fishery resource as an objective of the allotment management plans or grazing systems associated with the fishable streams in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area (MFP Overlays). Require that only rest-rotation grazing systems be used on the watersheds of these streams. Utilize all or any combination of the following list as best livestock management options to protect the resource area's riparian stream zones. Revise existing AMPs to include these objectives and management options.

1. Require that grazing cycles for AMPs or grazing systems associated with the resource area's fishable streams go to completion. Modification or interruption of the cycle is to be allowed only when it is determined that system objectives are not being met.

2. Design AMPs or grazing systems to utilize fish habitat factors as indicators of overutilization of the riparian/stream zone rather than upland plant species or riparian plant species. The fish habitat factors to be used are bank stability, percent shading and the siltation of pools and spawning gravels.

3. Use the riparian/stream zone as allotment or pasture boundaries.

4. Design the pastures to be of a size which allows management of the riparian stream zone for fish habitat, i.e. require that the pastures surrounding a riparian/stream zone be of the smallest size which conditions specific to that allotment allow.

5. Provide a period of three consecutive years rest in each grazing cycle.

6. Utilize recommendations from HMPs in the design of AMPs or grazing systems.

7. To reduce erosion from the wateshed and improve its water retainment ability, prevent mechanical damage from livestock by deferring turnout until the range has stabilized and vegetation is established. This period will vary with elevation. Pastures should be designed with this fact in mind.

8. Require herding of livestock away from the riparian/stream zone.

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WLA 1.4 (continued)

Rationale:

The improvement and maintenance of the fishery resource is accomplished through the improvement of the aquatic and riparian habitat. Of any use of the riparian/stream zone livestock grazing has the most wide ranging and detrimental effect on the fishery resource. The reason for this is the overutilization of the riparian vegetation and mechanical damage to the streambanks. The first step to assure that grazing be done on the resource area's riparian/stream zones without damage to the habitat and the fishery resource is to reflect the protection of the riparian/stream zone as an objective of associated AMPs or grazing systems. Grazing systems which allow annual grazing such as deferred or deferred rotation grazing have been proven not to protect the riparian/stream zone. The only system which has a chance of working is one which provides periodic rest such as the rest-rotation system. Even this type of system cannot be of value unless it is allowed to complete full cycles. In the case of the riparian/stream zone the desired objectives of the AMP or grazing system will come gradually and slowly. Interruptfon of the cycle could, in a short time, ruin everything accomplished to the point of interruption. Most AMPs or grazing systems have been designed to promote the condtion and production of upland forage. This can be accomplished while leaving the aquatic habitat and the fishery resource in a devastated condition. The condition of stream habitat factors should be monitored rather than the condition of upland forage.

The larger the pasture around the stream the more difficult it becomes to protect it from overgrazing. The ideal situation would be to fence off each stream from the rest of the allotment. This will not be possible in every case so therefore the best alternative would be to make the pasture surrounding the riparian/stream zone as small as conditions allow. Utilizing the streams as pasture and allotment boundaries would protect one side of the stream and in the case of complete fencing provide half the cost. Where pastures are too large to protect the stream habitat by managing the period and intensity of use then herding of livestock away from the riparian stream zone becomes the only other method available. Range users will be induced to keep their livestock off the stream if they are faced with having to remove their cattle to another pasture because of stream habitat damage.

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RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	WLA 1.4
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WLA 1.4 (continued)

The development of the aquatic habitat is a very slow process. Any grazing system will cause a gradual deterioration of the habitat. Therefore it is necessary to provide a period of continuous rest at the end of each grazing cycle to allow the habitat conditon to rest up or catch up before the next cycle begins.

The water retention ability of the watershed is of paramount importance in providing stable stream flows throughout the year. Protection of the vegetative cover on the watershed minimizes erosion, reduces runoff and improves its water retention ability. A rest-rotation grazing system provides the best protection for these areas and livestock turnout should be delayed until after the soils have stabilized and vegetation has become established after winter moisture and vegetative dormancy. This will vary with elevation.

The relationship between riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat is treated in detail in the Fisheries WRA Section 2-B. Livestock grazing and its effects on the stream are detailed in Section II-B-3.

MFP II WLA 1.4

Multiple Use Recommendation

Through the coordinated planning process, ensure that fish habitat factors (bank stability, percent shading, siltation of pools and spawning gravels) are included as objectives of AMPs that contain fishable streams.

Rationale

Existing AMPs did not adequately consider livestock effects upon riparian/fishery habitats. Often past consequences of livestock use on fishery habitat has reduced or eliminated desirable fishery habitat (URA). New AMPs or modifications of existing AMPs plus any other activity plans will be designed to mitigate livestock effects on fishery habitat.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.5

Initially rest each riparian/stream zone at least five years to allow aquatic habitat and riparian vegetation to develop and stabilize before the beginning of the first grazing cycle.

Rationale:

The development of riparian vegetation and stream habitat will be a very slow process. In many cases woody vegetation will have to be initially established by planting. The rest period is needed to allow woody vegetation along the streams to grow to a large enough size so they can withstand browsing by livestock. Woody vegetation stabilizes the streambanks by trapping silt, shading the stream and providing detritus into the energy cycle of the stream (URA).

The development of stream habitat for fish is also a slow process and will take time to accomplish. Erosion from the stream banks and the watershed will gradually be reduced and silt from the streambed will be tied up in the streambanks. Pools and bank overhangs will develop providing shade and cover for fish. Livestock grazing in the riparian stream zone will only retard the development of aquatic habitat and riparian vegetation.

The overall habitat condition should, within five years of rest, improve to reach a general condition rating (URA) of 80% of optimum based on the Bureau of Land Management Stream Survey. Present condition ratings range between 26% and 76%. Seventy-two percent of the streams in the Sonoma Planning Unit are in class fair or poor as are 71% of the streams in the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit (URA).

Support:

Range - decisions.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Total non-use of all riparian stream zones for a five year period would require total elimination or exclusion of livestock from the public lands.

Through a coordinated planning approach AMPs will be developed that are designed to improve the riparian/stream zone habitat.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.6 ✓

Develop new fish habitat through the establishment of reservoirs at sites determined by the District reservoir site inventory. Develop agreements specifying minimum pools for new irrigation reservoirs. The size of the minimum pools shall be determined by a site specific analysis on a case by case bsais. Prevent accelerated eutrophication and deterioration of the water quality from animal wastes in reservoirs by preventing livestock access to the shoreline. Design reservoirs to provide water troughs downstream away from the dam. Provide and maintain access to the reservoirs.

Rationale:

The resource area has a large potential for fish habitat expansion through the development of reservoirs on many perennial and nonperennial streams not capable of supporting fish. The existing reservoirs in the resource area were developed for irrigation and no protection against complete draining exists. The existing reservoirs also are located as far as 100 miles from the nearest population centers. There are potential reservoir sites within twenty miles of Winnemucca. Cattle cause shoreline erosion and introduce nutrients into its water from their feces causing algae blooms, accelerated eutrophication and a decrease in the esthetic value of the reservoir for recreation and as fish habitat.

Support:

Engineering and Operations - surveying
Management Services - contracting
Lands and Realty
Operations - construction of fences and watering facilities

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Proper analysis of conflicts/compliments cannot be made on potential reservoir sites within specific reservoir sites being identified. Land use decision is not required to perform an inventory of reservoir site location.

Impractical to exclude livestock from the shoreline of all reservoirs, when a problem in known - then corrective action may be taken - land use decision not required.

Minimum pool size on irrigation reservoirs and access to reservoirs that involve public land can be added by stipulation on right-of-way permits on a case by case basis.

WLA 1.6 (continued)

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Whenever practicable all reservoirs constructed on public land that have fisheries potential will be fenced with the water piped to a tank for livestock use. Any new irrigation reservoirs on public land will have a minimum pool requirement established. The same will apply on existing reservoirs when the opportunity arises.

This will be coordinated with other affected individuals, permittees, or agencies in advance, such as Division of Wildlife Resources.

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.7

Improve the water quality of streams, lakes and reservoirs used as fish habitat by:

1. Reducing turbidity from streambank and watershed erosion by preventing or controlling livestock use of the riparian zone and unstable watersheds.

2. Reduce coliform bacteria contamination in streams, lakes and reservoirs by preventing or controlling livestock use of the banks and shorelines.

3. Prevent mineral and chemical contamination caused by mining activity by requiring that waters once diverted and polluted not be introduced back into the stream.

Rationale:

Good quality water is a vital constituent of fish habitat. Deterioration of water quality will result in a reduction of the fishery resource. It will also result in a reduction of the esthetic quality of the lake reservoir and stream areas for the angler (URA).

Support:

Range - grazing decisions
Operations - fencing
Minerals - compliance

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Point Number 1 - is restatement of Bureau policy. Through other Multiple Use Recommendation (MUR) the objective of this recommendation can be obtained. See MUR Range Management 1.4, 1.2, Wild Horses and Burros 1.1, Wildlife 1.5, Wildlife Aquatic 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.

Point Number 2 - see reasons under Multiple Use Analysis WLA 1.6.

Point Number 3 - once a mining venture goes into productions, they must comply with state mine inspector requirements, 208 water quality regulations, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife Aquatic 1.8
Overlay Reference	Step 1 Step 3

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.8

Prevent the use of water from streams capable of supporting a sport fishery for mining and milling. Control the construction of mine roads along riparian stream zone to ensure that they are routed and waterbarred to minimize erosion. Protest water filings on streams by mining interests to ensure the above stipulations are met.

Rationale:

Any action, including mining activities, which deteriorates aquatic habitat by removing water from the stream and causing erosion into the stream will also cause a reduction in the fishery resource using that aquatic habitat (URA). A water rights protest to an application for water on public land is an effective means to ensure compliance.

Support:

Lands and Realty
Minerals
Water Rights Specialist

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

MFP II

WLA 1.8

Multiple Use Recommendation

Encourage mining and other interests to work with the Bureau to mitigate possible adverse environmental impacts.

Rationale

Majority of the adverse impacts associated with mineral development/exploration can be mitigated. Presently several mining interests are submitting plans of operation to the bureau in an effort to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. this practice should be encouraged whenever possible.

The 3802 regulations are in effect and it is anticipated that the 3809 regulations will soon be approved. These regulations would give the Bureau the administrative tools to mitigate mineral exploration/development.

P III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.9

Investigate Nevada water rights records for each stream capable of supporting a sport fishery. Apply to the State of Nevada for the right to all unappropriated stream waters in the resource area. Apply for the rights to appropriated stream waters which are eligible for reappropriation through nonuse of existing rights. Protect the appropriation of any water from public streams containing sport fish.

Rationale:

The right to unappropriated stream water and appropriated stream water which has not been used for five years can be obtained by making application to the State of Nevada, Water Resources Division. By having state water rights, BLM would have state support to prevent any private use of the stream waters which may jeopardize the fishery resource.

Support:

Nevada Division of Water Resources

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

This recommendation is adequately addressed in Multiple Use Recommendation Watershed 2.1. See that recommendation.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

MFP III

Acquire or provide sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law and/or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock, and recreation.

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.10

Be it District policy that exotic fish species be introduced into the water of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area only with specific agreements between BLM and also NDF&G and after extensive analysis through the Environmental Analysis Record system. No exotic species will be introduced into those drainages containing endangered, threatened or potentially threatened species. Mahogany Creek contains the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout which has been identified as a threatened species (URA). Warm springs in the Soldiers Meadows basin contain the Soldiers Meadows desert dace which have been proposed as an endangered species.

Rationale:

At present there is no working agreement between BLM and NDF&G concerning the introduction of exotic species into waters on public land or drainages which extend onto public land. An agreement of this nature should be developed between personnel from the NDF&G State Office and the BLM State Office. The Environmental Analysis Record for exotic introductions should be written by the NDF&G and reviewed by BLM, Winnemucca District.

Support:

NDF&G - cooperation

Environmental Coordination State (State Office) - Negotiation of agreements

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Bureau policy on introduction of exotic organisms (both flora and fauna) is outlined in Washington Office Instruction Memo 78-299.

As stated in the rationale for the recommendation, presently there is no working agreement between BLM and NDOW concerning the introduction of exotic species into waters on public land or drainages which extend onto public land.

A land use decision is not required to develop such an agreement between BLM and NDOW.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Managers recommendation and rationale. Make a part of the District Standard Operating Procedure.

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RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wildlife Aquatic 1.11
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

MFP Recommendation: WLA 1.11 ✓

That fire lines not be constructed by hand or heavy equipment along the riparian stream zones, and that fire retardant not be applied directly to streams or other waters either by direct application or by spillage at the mixing point.

Rationale:

Fire has a tremendous effect on the riparian stream zone and should be controlled when possible. Certain control measures should be avoided, however. Building fire lines along small streams removes stabilizing vegetation and initiates erosion which could destroy the stream habitat. Most fire retardants contain ammonia in concentrations lethal to aquatic life when applied directly to the water. Those riparian/stream zones not recommended for retardant or dozers, and aquatic and watershed areas requiring suppression are identified on the National Fire Danger Rating Overlay located in the Fire Control Office. Let burn actions are not desirable for the riparian and aquatic zones because of the long time necessary for regrowth of riparian vegetation and development of aquatic habitat. It must be recognized that fire control decisions will be based on the characteristics of the terrain on which each fire is burning. The protection of the riparian stream zones should be observed whenever possible.

Support:

Fire control decisions.

FIRE

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600–21 (April 1975)

WLA 1.11

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Fire lines will not be constructed by heavy equipment on riparian stream zones and fire retardant will not be applied to water.

Rationale

Heavy equipment can do more damage to riparian habitat and stream zones than can the fire. Hand lines can be constructed to control the fires.

Support

Fire Management

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the recommendation and make it a part of the District Fire Management Plan.

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RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife Aquatic 1.12
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP I

Recommendation: WLA 1.12 ✓

That roads on all resource area streams be waterbarred to prevent erosion with priority given to roads on the following streams:

Sonoma Resource Area - Thomas Canyon Creek, Sonoma Canyon Creek

Buffalo Hills Resource Area - Rock Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Red Mountain Creek.

Rationale:

Any source of erosion into the aquatic habitat will eventually result in the reduction of the fishery resource.

Support:

Operations and Engineering - surveying, waterbarring, road maintenance

Lands - Easement acquisition, Cadastral Survey

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600–21 (April 1975)

MFP II

WLA 1.12

Multiple Use Recommendation

BLM roads on resource area streams be waterbarred or relocated to prevent erosion with priority given to roads on the following streams:

Sonoma Planning Unit - Thomas Canyon Creek, Sonoma Canyon Creek

Buffalo Hills Planning Unit - Rock Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Red Mountain Creek.

Rationale

Any source of erosion into the aquatic habitat will eventually result in the reduction of the fishery resource.

Support

ATROW

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the recommendation and rationale.

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RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wildlife Aquatic 1.13
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

MFP 1

Recommendation: WLA 1.13 ✓

Apply no herbicides or pesticides directly over the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area's streams, lakes or reservoirs.

Rationale:

Herbicides would remove stabilizing vegetation and pesticides would cause mortality among the fish populations as well as the aquatic invertebrate community which are used for food by fish.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600–21 (April 1975)

WLA 1.13

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Apply no herbicides or pesticides directly over the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area's streams, lakes or reservoirs.

Rationale

Herbicides would remove stabilizing vegetation and pesticides would cause mortality among the fish population as well as the aquatic invertebrate community which are used for food by fish.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

In BLM initiated actions apply no herbicides or pesticides directly over the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area's streams, lakes or reservoirs unless adverse impacts can be adequately mitigated.

Herbicides